



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa	Orlando	Ocala	Jacksonville	Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE			CONTACT: STEVE COLE	
Tuesday - July 15, 2008			PHONE: (813) 274-6136	
http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr			FAX: (813) 274-6300	

JACKSONVILLE CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS ON FIREARMS CHARGE

Jacksonville, Florida - Today United States District Judge John H. Moore, II, sentenced Tayari Chaka Cohen, Jr., age, 35, to 17 years in federal prison. Cohen was prosecuted for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to court records, on October 31, 2007, Cohen was driving a white Acura MDX that was reported to have been involved in a carjacking. Officers made a traffic stop on the vehicle. When the white Acura MDX came to a stop, Cohen exited the vehicle and ran. When officers apprehended Cohen, they found a loaded .40 caliber firearm in his right front pants pocket. According to the Indictment, Cohen has prior convictions for attempted armed robbery, sale of cocaine, felony battery and fleeing and eluding.

The case was investigated by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney A. Tysen Duva.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. United

States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.