



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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ARMED AND DRUNK JACKSONVILLE MOTORCYCLE RIDER SENTENCED TO 16 YEARS

Jacksonville, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announced that Michael Harris, age 35, of Jacksonville was sentenced today to 16 years' imprisonment for being a felon in possession of a firearm. A jury had previously found Harris guilty on June 10, 2008. U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Corrigan presided over the trial and sentencing.

According to court records, Harris had ten prior felony convictions including several burglaries, aggravated battery, possession of cocaine and sexual battery. Trial testimony revealed that Harris was riding a motorcycle while intoxicated. Jacksonville Sheriff's Officers responded to a 911 call after Harris and a friend wrecked the motorcycle. Neither were injured. When police came to the aid of Harris, they discovered a .45 caliber pistol in his waistband.

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 (ATF). United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill, along with Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge, ATF Tampa Field Division, 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.

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 Frank Talbot.