



Department of Justice

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MAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IN PRISON ON GUN AND DRUG CHARGES

Tampa, FL - U.S. District Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich, today sentenced Junior John, age 46, to ten years in prison and four years of supervised release for possessing firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and possessing two kilograms of cocaine with the intent to distribute it. Junior John entered a guilty plea on May 7, 2008.

According to court documents, Junior John, who lived under the assumed name "Jason Williams" and used the street name "Diamond," traded \$20,458.51 and eleven 11 firearms for two kilograms of cocaine that he intended to sell on the streets. Law enforcement seized all eleven guns and the drug buy money.

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 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and the Manatee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas N. Palermo.