



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**Portland Man Sentenced on Federal Firearms Charge**

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Ryan B. Butterworth**, 28, of Portland, Maine, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Portland to 71 months imprisonment and 3 years supervised release, for Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. Butterworth pleaded guilty on November 1, 2007.

According to court records, on April 26, 2006, Butterworth participated in a home invasion in Buxton during which he possessed a Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver. Butterworth fired several shots from the gun during the home invasion. At the time Butterworth possessed the gun, he had been convicted of felony drug trafficking and was therefore prohibited from possessing a firearm.

Butterworth's sentence was ordered to run concurrently with a 20-year sentence that he received in U.S. District Court on February 22, 2007. Butterworth received the 20-year sentence after being convicted after trial in October 2006 of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and marijuana and possession with intent to distribute cocaine base. Butterworth's convictions and sentence on the drug charges were affirmed by a federal appeals court on December 20, 2007.

The case was a part of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which coordinates the efforts of federal and state agencies. The Project's goal is to increase successful prosecution of firearms cases and educate potential offenders on the serious consequences of illegal gun use and possession.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Buxton Police Department, the York County Sheriff's Office and the Biddeford Police Department.

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