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**ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS IN PRISON
FOR THEFT OF FIREARMS FROM DICK'S SPORTING GOODS**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; and CHET EPPERSON, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

Late yesterday afternoon, United States District Judge Frederick J. Kapala sentenced GERALD W. OSBORN, 20, Rockford, Illinois, to a non-paroleable term of 8 years in the Bureau of Prisons for a theft of firearms conviction in connection with a burglary at Dick's Sporting Goods on East State Street in Rockford on July 19, 2006. Osborn was also ordered to serve three years of supervised release following his release from prison, and to pay restitution to Dick's Sporting Goods in the amount of \$1,399.96.

As part of his plea agreement, Osborn admitted that on July 19, 2006, he and ANTHONY WAINWRIGHT drove to the area of the Dick's Sporting Good's store on East State Street in Rockford, Illinois. While Wainwright waited, Osborn went into the Dick's Sporting Good's store, a federally licensed firearms dealer, where he broke into the store by smashing the front glass doors with a cement object. Osborn then went to the firearms section of the store and took four long firearms, as well as some ammunition, that belonged to Dick's Sporting Goods. Osborn was subsequently involved in the sale and trade of the firearms for money and crack cocaine.

ANTHONY WAINWRIGHT, 29 of Rockford, was previously sentenced to 57 months in the Bureau of Prisons, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, for receiving stolen firearms.

Osborn and Wainwright were charged in federal court as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an intensive, cooperative effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement to attack gun crimes. The cornerstone of the program is that every defendant committing an offense involving a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to obtain the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at www.psn.gov.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Rockford Police Department. The case was being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Michael F. Iasparro.

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