



CONTACT NUMBER: 815-987-4444

May 14, 2008

**FEDERAL JURY FINDS ROCKFORD MAN GUILTY OF
BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; PHILLIP NICOLOSI, Winnebago County State’s Attorney, and CHET EPPERSON, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

After a three day trial, a federal jury today returned a guilty verdict against **QUENTIN R. LOVE**, 32, of Rockford, convicting him of possessing a handgun as a convicted felon on September 19, 2007, inside a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of Harrison Avenue in Rockford.

The charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm normally carries a maximum possible penalty of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, and up to three years of supervised release. However, if Love is found to have previously been convicted of three serious drug offenses or violent felonies, he would have to be sentenced to at least 15 years in prison and up to life imprisonment. The actual sentence will be determined by United States District Court Judge Frederick J. Kapala, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing has been scheduled for August 20, 2008 at 2:30 p.m..

First charged by the Winnebago County State’s Attorney’s Office under state law, the defendant was transferred to federal court where he was charged under tough federal firearms laws 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 charged in state court for 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 the Rockford Office of the ATF and the Rockford Police Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Mark T. Karner and John G. McKenzie.

#####