



U.S. Department of Justice

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**New York Man Convicted by Jury of Federal Drug, Firearm Charges**

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that following a three-day jury trial in U.S. District Court in Portland, **Durrell Williams**, 23, of Queens, New York, was found guilty on February 25 on all counts of a 13-count indictment. **Williams** was charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, conspiracy to make false statements in firearm transactions, conspiracy to illegally deal in firearms, aiding and abetting false statements in firearm transactions, and possession of firearms by a prohibited person.

Evidence introduced at trial showed that **Williams** transported crack cocaine from the Queens, New York area and along with several other individuals sold it in Portland in 2005 and 2006. **Williams**, who was prohibited from possessing firearms due to a prior felony conviction, also recruited several "straw purchasers" to purchase firearms on his behalf from licensed firearms dealers in the Portland and Lewiston area. **Williams** then transported the firearms to New York for resale. Several of the firearms obtained by **Williams** in Maine were later recovered by the New York City Police Department in 2006.

**Williams** faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment and a 20-year mandatory minimum sentence on the crack cocaine charge. **Williams** faces a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment on the firearms charges.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of

Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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