



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

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Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS: ZWOLLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARM CHARGES

*Convicted felon subject to domestic abuse protective order
in possession of firearm*

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . RICHARD LAMAR SEPULVADO, age 30, of Zwolle, pleaded guilty to one count of Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person and one count of Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition by a Convicted Felon in U.S. District Court in Shreveport, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today. SEPULVADO appeared before United States District Judge S. Maurice Hicks on Tuesday, July 1, 2008 and entered his plea. He is scheduled for sentencing September 25, 2008.

The investigation by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) revealed that SEPULVADO was subject to a domestic abuse protective order issued by the 11th Judicial District Court in Sabine Parish, which prohibited him from possessing a firearm. In addition, SEPULVADO is a convicted felon with felony

convictions for possession and/or distribution of cocaine and marijuana. On September 20, 2007, he was arrested following a domestic disturbance and after a brief chase, he was found to be in possession of a firearm.

SEPULVADO faces a maximum prison sentence of 10 years or a fine of \$250,000.00, or both, on each count. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001 and designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. This case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Shreveport Resident Agency, in conjunction with the Sabine Parish Sheriff's Office and is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Mary J. Mudrick.

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