



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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LAFAYETTE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY A CONVICTED FELON

*A convicted felon cannot possess a firearm and this
defendant faces up to ten years in prison*

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **TYRONE SHELVIN**, age 23, of Lafayette, Louisiana, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Tucker L. Melancon in U.S. District Court in Lafayette, Louisiana, to one felony count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

On May 13, 2008, officers with the Lafayette Police Department were traveling on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive when they observed what they believed to be a hand-to-hand drug transaction between the defendant, TYRONE SHELVIN, the driver of a Jeep Wrangler, and another subject. As the officers approached the vehicle, the subject on foot fled while SHELVIN attempted to flee in the Jeep Wrangler. During the pursuit by the officers, SHELVIN jumped out of the vehicle while it was still moving and tried to flee on foot. SHELVIN resisted arrest, but was ultimately subdued and arrested. When the officers returned to SHELVIN's Jeep Wrangler, they recovered a loaded sawed-off shotgun, in plain view, between the driver's seat and the passenger's seat. SHELVIN has

a previous felony conviction for distribution of imitation drugs. It is unlawful for a convicted felon to possess a firearm.

SHELVIN faces a maximum prison sentence of ten years, a fine of not more than \$250,000.00, and a period of supervised release of not more than three years. 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 and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Collin Sims.

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