



# Department of Justice

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## **CRIMINAL WITH 18 PRIOR STATE CONVICTIONS SENTENCED TO OVER 21 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

Atlanta, GA - RENALDO SHEPHARD, 47, of Decatur, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Beverly B. Martin to serve over 21 years in prison on charges of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute, and possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking offense.

“This defendant, who has been a long-time menace to our community, has finally had to face real consequences for his life of crime,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “Guns and drugs are a terribly dangerous combination, particularly in the hands of a career criminal. Federal law imposes tough penalties for such criminal conduct.”

“As both a career criminal and an armed drug dealer, this man poses a double threat to public safety,” said Special Agent in Charge Gregory Gant of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. “Residents of Atlanta have a right to live without the fear of these criminals roaming our streets. From local and federal law enforcement to our prosecutors, to the jury and the judge -- the entire community is sending a clear message, 'enough is enough.' ”

SHEPHARD was sentenced to 21 years, 8 months in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system. SHEPHARD was convicted of the charges on October 9, 2008, after a three-day federal jury trial.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: On December 9, 2005, SHEPHARD and another man were observed by Atlanta Police Department officers coming from behind a known drug location in the Boulevard area of Atlanta. When the officers stopped to talk to the men, SHEPHARD ran from the officers, who gave chase. As he was running, SHEPHARD threw down a bag containing distribution amounts of crack cocaine. When officers apprehended SHEPHARD, they found a firearm in his jacket pocket. SHEPHARD later told local and federal investigators that he was a drug dealer and had been for some time. Investigators also determined that SHEPHARD had been convicted in state court 18 times previously of drug and firearms offenses.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and Officers of the Atlanta Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Todd C. Alley prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).