



*Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Kentucky
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North Carolina Man Convicted on Crack Cocaine and Firearm Charges in Lexington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lexington, Ky. — A federal jury convicted Raymond Earl Leary, 29, originally of Edenton, N.C., of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine, possession of firearms in furtherance of his drug crime, and being a prohibited person in possession of firearms. Leary was prohibited from possessing firearms because of his previous felony misdemeanor domestic violence convictions, and a domestic violence order.

The evidence established that on May 15, 2008, Lexington Police responded to a domestic violence call and searched the victim's apartment where Leary lived. The officers found three firearms, one of which was used to threaten the victim. In addition, the officers located 3.48 grams of crack cocaine located in plastic bags underneath some of Leary's baseball hats. The quantity of crack cocaine found was the equivalent to 17 "hits" according to testimony.

After officers found the crack cocaine and firearms, Leary admitted he was a convicted felon. The officers arrested Leary, searched him and found \$448 in his pocket. Testimony at trial established that Leary had no job at the time of his arrest. Leary stated he had been living with the victim for approximately two months.

James A. Zerhusen, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Ronnie Bastin, Chief, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Police, and Paul J. Vido, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (Louisville Field Division), jointly made the announcement today after the jury returned the verdict.

The investigation was conducted by the Lexington Police Department and ATF. The case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office in connection with the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program. The PSN program is a Department of Justice initiative aimed at reducing gun crimes and violent crime, including crimes involving firearms and narcotics. The United States was represented in the trial by Assistant United States Attorney Robert M. Duncan, Jr., and Special Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer O. True.

Leary is currently scheduled to appear for sentencing before Senior Judge Karl S. Forester in Lexington, Ky., on March 27, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. Leary faces a maximum prison

sentence of 20 years on the drug charge, a 10 year maximum sentence on the prohibited possession of firearm convictions, and a minimum sentence of five years on the conviction for possession of firearms in furtherance of his drug crime. However, his sentence will be imposed by the court after consideration of the United States Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of sentences.

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