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DEFENDANTS CONVICTED AS RESULT OF UNDERCOVER
STOREFRONT OPERATION (AUGUSTA INK) ARE
SENTENCED TO LENGTHY PRISON TERMS

AUGUSTA, GA: Edmund A. Booth, Jr., United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced on August 6, 2008 that Jacob Asher Plowright, 21; Rafel Cordaniez Milligan, 21; and Matthew Terence Roberts, 19; were each sentenced to lengthy terms of imprisonment in U.S. District Court in Augusta by U.S. District Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr. Each defendant had earlier entered guilty pleas to charges involving violations of federal firearms laws. Plowright and Milligan, who were previously convicted on two counts of Using a Firearm During a Violent Crime under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c), were sentenced to 384 months (32 years) and 300 months (25 years) retrospectively. Roberts, who was earlier convicted of Hijacking of a Motor Vehicle under 18 U.S.C. § 2119 and Using a Firearm During a Violent Crime under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) was sentenced to 168 months (14 years).

Booth noted that these convictions arose as a result of the 16-month undercover operation, dubbed "Augusta Ink," wherein undercover agents and detectives posing as owners and employees of the "Colur Tyme Tattoos and Things" tattoo parlor on Tobacco Road in Hephzibah, Georgia, purchased firearms, stolen vehicles, and other contraband from store patrons. In the instant case, Plowright sold to undercover officers at the storefront operation the firearm that he used in the armed robbery and shooting at the Richmond Hill Market on New Years Day 2007. That firearm was then ballistically matched to evidence recovered from the Richmond Hill Market crime scene.

Undercover agents also made agreements to purchase two hijacked vehicles (a BMW and a Dodge Charger) from defendants Milligan and Roberts. Roberts was arrested after a vehicle pursuit where he was driving the Dodge Charger. At the time of that arrest, he had the key to the BMW in his pocket.

Booth praised the investigation leading to this successful prosecution which involved the cooperative efforts of the Richmond County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Booth stated that this case was federally prosecuted as part of the district's Project Ceasefire initiative, a program devoted to reducing gun violence by prosecuting individuals found in possession of firearms who cannot legally possess them, such as felons and drug dealers; and through the district's Anti-Gang initiative.

The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorney Patricia Green Johnson.

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