



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2008
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/KYW

CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

LOUISVILLE MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGES

- Convicted felon in possession of sawed-off shotgun

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal grand jury in Louisville returned an indictment on September 9, 2008, against **Lance Thomas Mason**, age 26, of 2314 Strotam, Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, on charges of possessing a firearm with an overall length less than 26 inches and a barrel length less than 18 inches and with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

The Indictment alleges that on July 27, 2007, Mason was in possession of a Savage, Model 67-Series C, 12 gauge shotgun that measured less than 26 inches in overall length and had a barrel length under 18 inches. Mason, a felon, had been convicted in Jefferson Circuit Court in 2004 of Trafficking in a Controlled Substance and Arson in the Third Degree in 2004 and Assault Under Extreme Emotional Disturbance in 2006.

In the event of a conviction, the maximum potential penalties are life imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years. The minimum potential penalties are 15 years imprisonment, and 2 years of supervised release.

This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office,

the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert B. Bonar. The Louisville Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Louisville Metro Police Department, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

* * *

The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

###