



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa

Orlando

Jacksonville

Fort Myers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: STEVE COLE

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PHONE: (813) 274-6136

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

FAX: (813) 274-6300

TAMPA MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN TWO ARMED ROBBERIES

Tampa, FL - Senior United States District Judge William J. Castagna today sentenced CLIFFORD DARDEN, age 48, to a total sentence of 34 years' imprisonment, to be followed by a term of five years of supervised release. DARDEN was found guilty after trial on July 9, 2008, of two counts of robbery and two counts of using a firearm. His accomplice, Aaron Lamar Hollins, age 19, pled guilty in July 2008. He was sentenced to seven years and 10 months in federal prison.

According to the facts in testimony in court, the pair committed two armed robberies of businesses in Tampa in 2007. The two stores were:

- Kris & Pamela's Market located at 1018 Cass Street - June 4, 2007;
- Kwik Stop located at 6106 Westshore Blvd. - July 3, 2007.

DARDEN was armed in each instance with a firearm. In the robbery at the Kris & Pamela's Market DARDEN was armed with a .22 caliber revolver, however, he was shot by the victim cashier who chased after the robbers after they attempted robbery at his store.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong

support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill, along with Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge, ATF Tampa Field Division, is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Colleen Murphy Davis.
