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MILTON MAN SENTENCED FOR FIREARMS OFFENSE

The Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Vermont stated that Travis Dashnow, 24, of Milton, Vermont was sentenced on December 1, 2008, to 37 months in prison for being a felon in possession of a handgun. Chief United States District Judge William K. Sessions III., sitting in Burlington, also sentenced Dashnow to two years of supervised release following his prison sentence.

According to Court records, in May of 2003, a search warrant was executed at several apartments located at 38 Thasha Lane in Essex. During the search, police seized cocaine, U.S. currency, several firearms, clips and ammunition. Investigation into these firearms revealed that two of the firearms had previously been stolen from a residence in Milton. Travis Dashnow, who obtained the firearms after the theft, had then traded those firearms in exchange for cocaine with a resident of the Thasha Lane apartments. Dashnow was a convicted felon at the time of the transactions.

Under the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are now advisory, Dashnow faced a prison sentence of between 84-105 months. Citing, among other factors, the length of time that had passed since the offense occurred and Dashnow's effort at rehabilitation, Judge Sessions imposed a reduced sentence.

The United States Attorney thanked the Essex Police Department, the South Burlington Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on this matter. The prosecution of this case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Wendy L. Fuller. The defendant was represented by Mark A. Kaplan.

U.S. Attorney Anderson noted that this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhood, a nationwide commitment to reduce gun crime in America. Led by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Project Safe Neighborhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who violate federal gun laws. For more information about Project Safe Neighborhood and Project Safe Vermont, please visit: www.psn.gov.