



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO
180 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR POSSESSING A FIREARM
WHILE BEING A CONVICTED FELON**

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez announced that Kenneth Bernard Johnson was sentenced today to 188 months' imprisonment on a one count indictment that charged him with being a felon in possession of ammunition.

The defendant was Indicted on July 11, 2002. The Indictment charged that on or about May 12, 2002, in Lakeland, Florida, the defendant, a convicted felon, possessed a Bryco Arms 9mm. handgun, serial number 1436101.

The defendant had been convicted of the following felony offenses: (1) Felon in possession of a firearm and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, on or about February 23, 1996; (2) Two counts of aggravated assault, on or about November 28, 1994; and (3) Resisting an Officer with violence, on or about July 13, 1994. The defendant does not have his right to possess a firearm restored.

This is another case indicted 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). U. S. Attorney Paul Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort "Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!". 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 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Polk County Sheriff's Office investigated this case, with the full cooperation of the State Attorney's Office for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida. Assistant United States Attorney John F. Rudy, III prosecuted the case.