



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
MIKE JOHNS
Telephone:(602) 514-7566 Pager: (602) 356-0131

BRADY BACKGROUND CHECK CATCHES A PHOENIX RESIDENT WITH 16 PRIOR FELONY CONVICTIONS AND RESULTS IN A 10 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR THE PAWNING A HANDGUN

PHOENIX, ARIZONA –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on March 11, 2003, WILLIAM THOMAS WHITE, D.O.B. January 16, 1955, of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for Felon in Possession of a Firearm in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), by United States District Judge Susan R. Bolton, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Prior to the sentencing, White entered a guilty plea to the charge and then asked the Court to proceed directly to sentencing. In the course of his guilty plea, White admitted the following facts.

On April 16, 2001, White knowingly possessed, and then pawned, at A-Action Pawn in Phoenix, Arizona, a Bryco Arms, Model 9, 9mm, semi-automatic pistol. At the time White pawned the firearm, he had the following sixteen (16) prior felony convictions:

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1. Breaking and Entering, Case Number A-1080-76, in the County Court of Bergen County, New Jersey, Law Division (Criminal), on October 8, 1976;
2. Possession of Burglary Tools, Case Number A-1081-76, in the County Court of Bergen County, New Jersey, Law Division (Criminal), on October 8, 1976;
3. Attempted Breaking and Entering, Case Number A-1082-76, in the County Court of Bergen County, New Jersey, Law Division (Criminal), on October 8, 1976;
4. Breaking and Entering (four counts), Case Number 533-77, in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hudson County, Law Division (Criminal), on June 26, 1981;
5. Breaking and Entering (four counts), Case Number 452-79, in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hudson County, Law Division (Criminal), on June 26, 1981;
6. Attempted Breaking and Entering, Case Number 452-79, in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hudson County, Law Division (Criminal), on June 26, 1981;
7. Aggravated Assault, Case Number 166-80, in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hudson County, Law Division (Criminal), on June 26, 1981;
8. Receiving a Stolen Automobile, Case Number 87-06-0455-I, in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Morris County, Law Division (Criminal), on October 13, 1987;
9. Possession of a Handgun by a Convicted Person, Case Number 87-06-0455-I, in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Morris County, Law Division (Criminal), on October 13, 1987; and
10. Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, Case Number A.788-10-91, in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Middlesex County, Law Division (Criminal), on December 11, 1991.

Later, on May 4, 2001, White attempted to redeem the pawned firearm from A-Action Pawn, a federally licensed firearms dealer. The dealer did not return the firearm to White because White's prior felony record was identified during a standard Brady background check. Federal law

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requires Brady background checks prior to the return of all pawned firearms by federally licensed firearms dealers. Prior to the Brady background check, White knowingly lied to the dealer on an ATF Form 4473 (Firearms Transaction Record) when he answered “no” to the following question: “Have your been convicted in any court of a crime for which the judge could have imprisoned you for more than one year?”

White was in federal custody pending sentencing and was remanded by Judge Bolton to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons after sentencing.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with assistance from the Phoenix Police Department.

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