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MOTHER SENTENCED FOR COMMITTING PERJURY AT SON'S TRIAL

GREENBELT, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Barbara Hawkins, age 55, of Washington, D.C. was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. to 24 months in prison arising from her jury conviction on October 29, 2003 for two counts of making false declarations and two counts of obstruction of justice at two federal firearms trials involving her son, Ammad Bashaun Perry.

According to the evidence presented at Hawkins's October trial, in March 2001, Hawkins and Perry lived in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Hawkins worked for Verizon at a Beltsville location 26 miles from her residence. On Monday, March 13, 2001, Hawkins did not go to work and visited her doctor, who diagnosed her as suffering from a migraine headache and prescribed rest at home. During the rest of the week of March 13-16, 2001, Hawkins did not go to work at Verizon.

During the week Hawkins was at home, Perry was stopped by Montgomery County police officers while driving Hawkins's Hyundai automobile by himself early on March 15, 2001. Police found a firearm hidden in the trunk of the car. A federal grand jury later indicted Perry for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Trial evidence further showed that on October 9, 2001 Hawkins told a law enforcement

officer that she did not know anything about the gun found in her car. However, when Perry's case was tried in April 2002, Hawkins claimed that on March 14, 2001 she went to work, stopped at a laundromat in Hyattsville which is near her office, found a firearm, put it in the trunk of the Hyundai, drove home to Gaithersburg, did not remove it from the trunk, and did not tell Perry about it before he drove off in the Hyundai. After hearing Hawkins' testimony, the jury in Perry's trial was unable to reach a verdict and a mistrial was declared. At a second trial in May 2002, Hawkins repeated her testimony. The jury found Perry not guilty of the firearms charges in the indictment but convicted him of an obstruction of justice offense which carried a substantially shorter sentence than the firearms offense under the applicable sentencing guidelines.

After an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S. Attorney's Office obtained evidence that Hawkins was not at work, she was indicted and convicted for lying about her whereabouts on the day before her son was arrested with the gun.

Judge Williams described Hawkins's testimony at her son's trials as "nonsense" and observed that "it looks to me as though she fabricated the whole idea" of claiming that she found the gun in the laundromat. He increased the sentence because Hawkins's testimony substantially interfered with justice at Perry's trials and because she testified falsely at her own trial, when she claimed that her earlier testimony was a mistake caused by poor memory. "All of it, as far as the court is concerned, is just lies," Judge Williams said.

In addition to the 24-month term of imprisonment, Judge Williams ordered Hawkins to pay a \$2,500 fine, a \$400 special assessment, and to serve three years on supervised release.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stuart A. Berman and Stephanie A. Gallagher.

