

News Release  
U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Rhode Island



January 28, 2005



## Providence man is sentenced to 15 years in prison as an Armed Career Criminal

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- A federal judge has sentenced **Gary Ross**, 42, of Providence, to 15 years in federal prison as an Armed Career Criminal. Providence Police arrested Ross in October 2003 after he ran away from two detectives and tossed away a handgun.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed on January 14 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In March, Ross, of 114 Waverly Street, pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Donnelly said that the government could prove that, on October 18, 2003, two detectives in an unmarked car saw Ross running towards them. When he recognized them as police officers, Ross turned and ran and the officers heard him toss a metal object away. The officers apprehended Ross and recovered the metal object, a .357 caliber revolver, which Ross admitted was his.

Being a felon in possession of a firearm carries a maximum sentence of ten years in prison. However, Ross' prior record, which includes five robbery convictions and two drug-trafficking convictions, qualified him as an Armed Career Criminal and subjected him to a minimum 15-year sentence.

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**Providence Police** and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Donnelly prosecuted it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 550 years in federal prison.

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