

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney's Office
Western District of Michigan*

*The Law Building
330 Ionia Avenue, N.W.
5th Floor
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503*

*Mailing Address: (616) 456-2404
United States Attorneys Office Facsimile (616) 456-2408
Post Office Box 208
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0208*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John F. Salan
Assistant United States Attorney
(616) 456-2404

Grand Rapids, Michigan - October 14, 2004 -- United States Attorney Margaret M. Chiara announced that Terrence Underwood of Battle Creek, Michigan, was sentenced by the Honorable Gordon J. Quist, United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, to a sentence of 100 months imprisonment to be served concurrently on each of two counts of a federal indictment, to be followed by four years of supervised release. Mr. Underwood pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(a)(2), and possession with intent to distribute a crack cocaine, a violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1). The maximum sentence for the former charge is ten years' imprisonment, and the latter charge is punishable by imprisonment of not less than five years nor more than forty years.

Mr. Underwood pled guilty to this indictment on July 6, 2004. The indictment was originally returned by a federal grand jury on April 7, 2004. The charges stem from an incident that took place in Battle Creek on January 21, 2004. When Michigan State Police Trooper Jack Zimmerman, of the Battle Creek Post, attempted to make a traffic stop on Mr. Underwood, he jumped out of his car and fled on foot. After a short foot-pursuit of approximately one-quarter mile, Mr. Underwood was apprehended by officers of the Battle Creek Police Department and

was turned over to Trooper Zimmerman.

A search of Mr. Underwood revealed that he was carrying a loaded Ruger P-89 9mm semiautomatic handgun in a shoulder-holster concealed under his jacket. He also had three knotted baggies containing rocks of crack cocaine, which a laboratory analysis determined to be approximately 28.18 grams.

The investigation of this matter was conducted by the Michigan State Police, Battle Creek Post, working in conjunction with Detective Dennis Wilkins from the Battle Creek Police Department, and Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was handled as part of the Western District of Michigan's Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Ms. Chiara commended the Michigan State Police, the Battle Creek Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for their work in the investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorney John F. Salan prosecuted this case on behalf of the United States.