



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A 31-year-old Detroit man was sentenced to 188 months in prison after having been found guilty by a jury for violating federal firearms laws, United States Attorney Craig S. Morford and Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced today.

Franklin Williams was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Patrick Duggan in federal court in Detroit.

This case is one of the more than 250 that have been referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution under a Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative that provides for the referral of gun cases by local prosecutors in those instances in which federal law provides for a substantially higher sentence.

The evidence presented at the two-day trial established that on April 3, 2004, WILLIAMS pulled into the driveway of an unsuspecting couple who were moving into a home on Glastonbury street in the City of Detroit. Officers of the Detroit Police Department were on routine patrol on Glastonbury when they noticed WILLIAMS standing in front of the residence. As WILLIAMS looked in the direction of the police officers he began to run towards the front door of the residence. Amidst the commotion, the unsuspecting couple attempted to keep WILLIAMS out of the house by closing the front door and yelling. WILLIAMS was able to gain access to the house and police chased him through the living room area and into the kitchen of the home. Once in the house, WILLIAMS tossed a 9mm gun which was loaded and contained eleven live rounds in the magazine behind the refrigerator. WILLIAMS initially resisted arrest but was subsequently placed under arrest.

"The lengthy sentences offenders receive under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative is aimed at encouraging prohibited persons to either stop carrying firearms or face serious consequences," stated U.S. Attorney Morford.

“The conviction and lengthy sentence in this case highlights the significance Project Safe Neighborhoods plays in our fight to keep guns and violent offenders off the street,” stated SAC Goddard.

U.S. Attorney Morford commended the efforts of the agents of ATF and officers of the Detroit Police Department for their diligent work on this case.

For questions regarding the Project Safe Neighborhoods in the Eastern District of Michigan please contact Peggy Goodwin, The Goodwin Co. at 248-543-3891.