

# NEWS

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## **JIM LETTEN, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

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## **U. S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES INDICTMENTS FOR CARJACKING AND FEDERAL GUN CHARGES**

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA** - Jim Letten, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Mark Chait, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Edwin P. Compass, III, Superintendent, New Orleans Police Department, that a Federal Grand Jury sitting in the Eastern District of Louisiana indicted **AUBREY DAVIS** today for numerous federal criminal offenses including carjacking; being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm; using a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence; and possessing a firearm while under indictment for a felony offense.

The indictment alleges that **DAVIS** committed a carjacking on October 25, 2004. It is further alleged that during the carjacking, **DAVIS** used a .357 cal. revolver to perpetrate the

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carjacking. The indictment adds that **DAVIS** was previously convicted in Orleans Parish in 1998 for attempted possession of cocaine, thereby prohibiting him from possessing a firearm. Additionally, **DAVIS** is charge with possessing two handguns even though he was currently under indictment in Mississippi for three counts of armed robbery. The defendant resides in Orleans Parish, Louisiana.

The carjacking count carries a maximum of 15 years imprisonment. The maximum penalty for being a felon in possession of a firearm is 10 years imprisonment. The penalty for possessing a firearm while under indictment is up to five years imprisonment. Use of a firearm while committing a crime of violence carries a minimum sentence of five years up to a maximum of life imprisonment. All counts are subject to a maximum fine of \$250,000.

This matter was investigated by Officers of the New Orleans Police Department and Special Agent Sue Pecora of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted federally under Project Safe Neighborhoods. This matter is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Greg Kennedy.

U. S. Attorney Letten also announced separate indictments charging two individuals, **DENNIS BROWN** and **FRED VARNADO**, with federal firearms violations.

**DENNIS BROWN**, age 20 and a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, is charged with being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm on July 2, 2004. Likewise, **FRED VARNADO**, age 33 and a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, is also charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm on July 2, 2004. According to the indictments, **BROWN** and

**VARNADO** each have two prior felony convictions, which prohibit them from possessing firearms.

Both **BROWN** and **VARNADO** face up to 10 years imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$250,000.00 and three years of supervised release following any term of imprisonment.

United States Attorney Jim Letten stated:

“These indictments are the result of the outstanding partnership between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the New Orleans Police Department and the United States Attorney’s Office. These indictments are examples of the continued efforts by the Department of Justice to aggressively pursue violent criminals and violations of federal firearms laws. This office will continue to stride forward in these and other cases which are an integral part of Project Safe Neighborhood, this Administration’s number one domestic law enforcement priority.”

The investigation of these cases is being handled by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Officers of the New Orleans Police Department.

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew M. Coman.

Letten reiterated that the indictments are charges, and that the guilt of the defendants must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

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