

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

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Providence man is convicted of drug and firearms charges

A federal jury has found **Anthony Lipscomb** guilty of crack cocaine trafficking and firearms offenses. Lipscomb pulled out a 9-millimeter pistol last December while struggling with a Providence Police officer who was trying to arrest him on drug charges.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty verdict, which the jury returned yesterday after a three-day trial and after deliberating for about an hour. Lipscomb faces at least 15 years in prison and is detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for January 20 before U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith.

During the trial, Assistant U.S. Attorneys Stephen G. Dambruch and Mary E. Rogers presented evidence that, on December 30, a Providence Police detective approached Lipscomb outside an auto repair shop on Carpenter Street. Lipscomb ignored the detective's call to stop, started to flee, and discarded a plastic bag, which detectives recovered.

Detective Joseph Colanduono chased Lipscomb and briefly grabbed hold of him, but Lipscomb was able to break free. While still in the detective's grasp, Lipscomb drew a 9-millimeter Keltec semi-automatic pistol from his waistband and tossed it away. Detectives retrieved the gun, which was loaded and had a round in the chamber, caught up with Lipscomb and, after a violent struggle, arrested him.

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The plastic bag that detectives recovered contained about 40 grams of crack cocaine. Police later seized about \$1,400 in cash from Lipscomb.

The jury found Lipscomb guilty of possessing with intent to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and possessing a firearm in connection with a drug-trafficking crime. Because Lipscomb has a prior drug felony, the crack-trafficking offense carries a minimum sentence of ten years in federal prison and a maximum of life and a \$2,000,000 fine. The maximum penalty for being a felon in possession of a firearm is ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Using a firearm in connection with a drug-trafficking offense carries a minimum of five years in prison, consecutive to any other sentence imposed, and a maximum of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The **Providence Police Narcotics and Organized Crime Bureau**, the **Drug Enforcement Administration**, and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** (ATF) participated in the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Dambruch and Rogers prosecuted the case 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, ATF, 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 650 years in federal prison.

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