



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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FEDERAL GRAND JURY RETURNS SEVEN INDICTMENTS

Madison, Wisconsin -- A federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin, sitting in Madison, returned the following indictments today. You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

CHICAGO MAN INDICTED ON GUN CHARGE

Billy McCarter, DOB 10/5/79, of Chicago, Illinois, was charged with possession of a firearm after previously being convicted of a felony. The indictment alleges that on or about July 13, 2005, McCarter possessed a .25 caliber piston, which did not have a serial number. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison.

This matter was investigated by the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

TWO INMATES CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

In separate indictments, two men were charged with possession of a prohibited object, specifically marijuana, while inmates of the Federal Correctional Institution at Oxford, Wisconsin. Darnell Hines, DOB 11/19/72, is alleged to have possessed marijuana on or about November 19, 2005. Erick Griffin, DOB 6/26/64, is alleged to have possessed marijuana on or about November 20, 2005.

If convicted, Hines and Griffin each face a maximum penalty of five years in prison. These matters were investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of these cases have been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

BELOIT MAN CHARGED AS FELON IN POSSESSION OF SHOTGUN

Brandon Hart, DOB 10/25/82, of Beloit, Wisconsin, was charged with possession of a firearm after previously being convicted of a felony. The indictment alleges that Hart possessed a 12 gauge shotgun, with no serial number, on or about September 6, 2005. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison. The investigation of this matter was conducted by the Beloit Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

LA CROSSE MAN CHARGED WITH ROBBERY OF JANESVILLE BANK

Phillip J. Walz, DOB 4/28/73, of La Crosse, Wisconsin, was charged with robbing the Mid America Bank in Janesville, Wisconsin, on June 17, 2005. Walz made an initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Madison on December 5, and was ordered held in custody pending an arraignment and detention hearing. That hearing will be held in federal court in Madison on Thursday, December 8, at 2:00 p.m.

If convicted, Walz faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. This matter was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Janesville Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea.

TWO MADISON MEN CHARGED WITH COCAINE OFFENSES

Santos Lanza, DOB 5/5/74, of Madison, Wisconsin, and Cortez Cruz Laureano, DOB 10/18/72, also of Madison, were charged in a three-count indictment. Lanza was charged with one count of distribution of cocaine and one count of possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute. Laureano was charged with two counts of distribution of cocaine and one count of possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute. If convicted, they face a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

This matter was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force. The prosecution of this case will be handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea.

MAN CHARGED WITH BEING IN UNITED STATES ILLEGALLY

Manuel Luque-Barahona, DOB 5/18/62, of Peru, was charged with intentionally entering the United States after previously being deported. The indictment alleges that

Luque-Barahona was found in the United States on or about November 21, 2005. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. He will be arraigned in U.S. District Court in Madison on December 9 at 10:30 a.m.

This matter was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Richland County Sheriff's Department. The prosecution of this case will be handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

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