



# Department of Justice

## UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GRETCHEN C.F. SHAPPERT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CHARLOTTE, NC - Louis Balducci, 36, of Waxhaw was arrested today on a federal criminal complaint filed on March 4, 2008 in U.S. District Court in Charlotte alleging distribution of Oxycodone and possession of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. During the course of the investigation which led to the filing of the charges and which lasted from approximately April 2007 to January 2008, Louis Balducci was a Union County, North Carolina Deputy Sheriff. Balducci was arrested without incident by FBI agents today in Monroe, Union County, North Carolina. Balducci made his initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge David C. Keesler today and was ordered detained in federal custody pending a detention hearing now set for Monday, March 10, 2008 at 10:45 a.m. in U.S. Magistrate Judge's Court in Charlotte.

U.S. Attorney Gretchen Shappert is joined by FBI Special Agent in Charge Nathan T. Gray, ATF Special Agent in Charge Zebedee T. Graham, and Union County Sheriff Eddie Cathey in making today's announcement.

According to official court documents, it is alleged that on or about January 12, 2008 and on or about January 24, 2008, in Union County, within the Western District of North Carolina, Louis Balducci distributed Oxycodone and that on January 12, 2008, Louis Balducci did use and possess a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

If convicted on the charges in the complaint, Balducci faces a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison on the drug distribution charge and a maximum statutory penalty of life in prison on the firearms charge. A defendant arrested on a federal criminal complaint containing felony charges has the right to have the matter presented to a grand jury for consideration.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Dana Washington will handle the prosecution for the government.

A defendant is entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

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