



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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August 26, 2004

TOPEKA, KANSAS, MAN SENTENCED ON GUN CHARGE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Jason O. Powell, 23, Topeka, Kansas, was sentenced on August 26, 2004, by U.S. District Judge Richard D. Rogers to five years in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Powell entered a guilty plea on May 28, 2004, to one count of possessing and carrying a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Melgren stated that Powell admitted at his plea that on February 8, 2004, he was stopped by a Shawnee County Sheriff's deputy for an illegally displayed license plate. Powell further admitted that he had an active arrest warrant for a parole violation and that when the deputy searched his person incident to his arrest the deputy found a loaded revolver in his front coat pocket and four individually wrapped baggies of crack cocaine with a total weight of less than 5 grams (less than .176 ounce) in his shirt pocket. Powell further admitted that he sells crack cocaine.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Task Force in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough in this prosecution.