



Department of Justice

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDER AND GUN GET LOCAL MAN 36 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Montgomery, Alabama– Omar Haleeh Smith, age 28, of Montgomery was sentenced today in United States District Court in Montgomery to 36 months in federal prison for possessing a firearm while subject to a domestic violence protection order, announced U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary. Smith was also sentenced to serve three years of supervised release under the supervision of a federal probation officer after his release from prison.

Smith pled guilty to possessing a .22 caliber pistol in Montgomery on December 2, 2006. Prior to that date, a domestic violence protection order had been issued against Smith due to domestic violence allegations. The domestic violence victim called the police on December 2, 2006, after being threatened by Smith with a gun. Responding officers arrested Smith and located the gun in his vehicle. Federal law prohibits individuals who are subject to a domestic violence protection order from possessing a firearm while the order is in effect.

The case was investigated as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe

Neighborhoods and the Middle District of Alabama's Alabama ICE (Isolating the Criminal Element) programs, aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "Domestic violence is a very serious problem in our society. Federal law prohibits people subject to protection orders from possessing guns because of the dangers they pose to their victims. This office will continue to work to protect the victims of domestic violence by prosecuting domestic violence cases involving illegal gun possession."

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Montgomery County Task Force on Domestic Violence TARGET Program, the Montgomery Police Department Domestic Violence Unit, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF"). The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Matthew Shepherd.