



Department of Justice

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**TUSKEGEE MAN SENTENCED TO 92 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON ON
COCAINE AND GUN CHARGES**

Montgomery, Alabama - Willie Brown, age 23, of Tuskegee, Alabama, was sentenced in federal district court on August 7, 2009, to 92 months in federal prison for possessing cocaine with intent to distribute and possessing a firearm in connection with the cocaine, United States Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Brown was also sentenced to serve five years of supervised release under the supervision of a federal probation officer after his release from prison.

Brown earlier pled guilty to possessing cocaine for distribution and a firearm on October 27, 2008, in Macon County, Alabama. Brown possessed the gun and the cocaine while running from officers of the United States Marshal's Service Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force, who were trying to arrest Brown on an outstanding warrant. While he was being pursued, Brown threw away cocaine and a .45 caliber pistol, which were recovered later. Brown admitted that he intended to distribute the cocaine and that he possessed the pistol in furtherance of the distribution. Federal law prohibits possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. When sentencing Brown to 92 months in federal prison, the United States District Court Judge specifically noted that Brown has a lengthy history of arrests for violent crimes in Macon County. There is no parole from federal prison.

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.

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF"), the United States Marshal's Service Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force, and the Tuskegee Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Matthew Shepherd.