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TWO MONTGOMERY RESIDENTS CHARGED IN FIREARMS CONSPIRACY

Montgomery, Alabama - Eugene Jones, III, age 29, and Angela Davis, age 30, both of Montgomery, Alabama, have been indicted by a federal grand jury with conspiring to provide false information to federal firearms dealers when purchasing firearms and with providing the false information during several purchases, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Both Jones and Davis are charged with conspiracy. Jones is also charged in four additional counts related to attempts to purchase firearms, with Davis being charged in two of the additional counts.

The indictment alleges that Jones and Davis conspired between February and April 2008 to provide false information to federal firearms dealers when attempting to purchase firearms. Federal law requires that any individual purchasing a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer fill out a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Form 4473 so that an instant background check may be run on the purchaser. The indictment alleges that Jones and Davis conspired to falsely state who was the actual buyer of the firearms when attempting to purchase firearms on multiple occasions. The indictment also charges four separate occasions during the time period of the conspiracy when Jones allegedly aided and abetted the providing of the false information to the firearms dealers. Davis is alleged to have provided the false

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information on two of these occasions. The indictment describes a total of seven guns purchased in the conspiracy at pawn shops in Montgomery and Prattville and describes an additional attempt to purchase five guns at a pawn shop in Prattville.

The maximum punishment for the conspiracy charge is five years in prison and for each of the four separate counts of providing false information to a firearms dealer and the maximum punishment is ten years in prison. On each count, the defendants could also be fined up to \$250,000 and ordered to serve up to three years of supervised release.

Both Jones and Davis have pled not guilty to the charges in federal court. Trial for both defendants was set for December 7, 2009, in Montgomery. Davis was released on bond pending trial. After a bond hearing on August 10, 2009, Jones was ordered detained without bond because the United States Magistrate Judge found that he was a danger to the community and posed a risk of failing to appear for trial. At the bond hearing, the evidence showed that of the seven guns purchased during the period of the conspiracy, two of those firearms were recovered within a short period of time from homicide scenes in the northeastern United States—one in Rhode Island and the other in Massachusetts. The magistrate judge also considered Jones' criminal history which included multiple charges for failing to appear for court dates. As a result, Jones was ordered held without bond.

The case was investigated as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods and Middle District of Alabama's Alabama ICE programs, aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "Lying on the forms required to purchase firearms is a serious crime with serious

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consequences. These defendants allegedly conspired to provide false information to firearms dealers who rely on the information provided by customers to make sure firearms are not sold to the wrong people.”

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”) and the Prattville Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Shepherd.

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