



**United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia**

**Jeffrey A. Taylor  
United States Attorney**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Friday, February 13, 2009

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### **SE District Teenager Pleads Guilty to Committing Two Separate Shootings**

WASHINGTON - A 17-year-old SE District teenager, Diedrick R. Johnson, pled guilty today to four criminal counts stemming from two unprovoked shootings committed just eleven days apart involving eight young victims, one on January 11, 2008, in the 2800 block of Douglas Road, SE, and another on January 22, 2008, in the 3300 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SE, outside of Ballou Senior High School, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced.

Johnson, who was charged as an adult, pled guilty to one count of Aggravated Assault while Armed and one count of Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence for the January 11, 2008 shooting and one count of Assault with Intent to Kill and one count of Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence for the January 22, 2008 shooting. In total, Johnson faces a maximum statutory penalty of 75 years of incarceration when he is sentenced by Superior Court Judge Ronna L. Beck on June 12, 2009.

At today's hearing, Johnson was placed under oath and admitted that on January 11, 2008, he was a passenger in a vehicle driving on Douglas Road, SE. As the car slowed down, Johnson fired a .40 caliber handgun at a group of teenagers walking in the block, striking five of the teens and causing serious bodily injury to at least two of them. Among the five gunshot victims, one victim was struck once in the chest and the bullet remains lodged in his chest, and another victim's finger was almost entirely severed and remains permanently disfigured.

Johnson also admitted that on January 22, 2008, in the area of Ballou High School, he fired a .380 caliber handgun multiple times into a crowd of young students as they walked home from school with the intent to kill an individual(s) from a rival neighborhood crew. Johnson's gunfire struck four students, all of whom were innocent bystanders. One of those victims was struck in the back and the bullet remains lodged there.

In a search of Johnson's residence on January 23, 2008, officers recovered the .40 caliber handgun Johnson used to shoot the victims on January 11, 2008, as well as, a box of

.380 caliber ammunition which was the same caliber and make that Johnson used to shoot the victims on January 22, 2008.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Taylor praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detective James Victor Francis, the lead detective assigned, along with many other diligent detectives and officers from the Seventh District who assisted in the investigation. He also praised the work of Legal Assistant Baretta Francis. Mr. Taylor also thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Erin B. Andrews, who prosecuted these cases, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorneys Vasu Muthyala, William Woodruff, and Tejpal S. Chawla, who assisted in investigating and indicting these cases.

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