



Department of Justice

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CONVICTED FELON SENTENCED TO NINE YEARS FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AMMUNITION

Tampa, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge Richard A. Lazzara Thursday sentenced Joshua Wilbers (22, Gibsonton) to nine years in federal prison for the unlawful possession of ammunition.

Wilbers entered a plea of guilty to a federal firearms charge on October 1, 2010. According to court documents, Wilbers unlawfully possessed numerous rounds of ammunition for a .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun in Hillsborough County on March 19, 2010, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(e). At the time of possession, he was a convicted felon and could not legally possess a firearm or ammunition. The indictment also notified the defendant that the United States intends to forfeit all title and interest in any firearm and ammunition involved in or used in the commission of this crime.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer.

This is another case prosecuted as a part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" program - a nationwide, gun-violence reduction strategy led by

ATF. United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill, along with Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge, ATF Tampa Field Division, is coordinating the Project Safe Neighborhoods effort here in the Middle District of Florida in cooperation with federal, state, and local law enforcement officials.