



U.S. Department of Justice

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ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 28 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGALLY SELLING FIREARMS

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and JOSEPH BRUSCATO, Winnebago County State's Attorney, ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, RICHARD A. MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff, and CHET EPPERSON, Rockford Police Deputy Chief, today made the following announcement:

Today, in Rockford Federal Court, United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced **MARCUS ANDERSON**, 23, of Rockford, to 28 months in prison, for illegally selling seven firearms to a convicted felon at a storefront operation located on Broadway. Anderson will not be eligible for parole. Anderson was charged by a federal grand jury on February 9, 2010, with engaging in the business of dealing in firearms without a license and selling firearms to an individual (the manager of the storefront) whom Anderson knew and had reason to believe was a felon.

The charges stemmed from a law enforcement operation that began in April 2009 and continued to October 2009. During that time, managers of the storefront operation purchased more than 50 firearms, including a dozen sawed-off shotguns, most of them allegedly sold illegally either by individuals who were previously convicted felons or by individuals who believed they were selling firearms to convicted felons. During the operation of the storefront, local, state and federal law enforcement authorities secretly recorded individuals as they used the back room of the storefront to illegally sell firearms and narcotic drugs.

The probe culminated on February 11, 2010, with the arrests of Anderson and other defendants indicted on state and federal charges. Eight Rockford residents were indicted on federal firearms or drug trafficking charges and 10 others were charged with state crimes.

Anderson pleaded guilty on June 23, 2010, to illegally engaging in the business of dealing in firearms without a license. In the plea agreement, Anderson also admitted to selling four firearms to a person the defendant knew and had reasonable cause to believe was a convicted felon.

In addition to the 28 month prison sentence, Anderson was ordered to serve 3 years of supervised release following his release from prison. The court also ordered Anderson to repay to the United States the \$2,440 the government used in purchasing the firearms from Anderson during the investigation.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the ATF, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, and the Rockford Police Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney JOHN G. McKENZIE.

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