



U.S. Department of Justice

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**Sep 15, 2009**

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**Event: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Gabriel Kish III**

**OWNER OF HIGHLAND GUN BARN SENTENCED  
FOR DEALING FIREARMS WITHOUT A LICENSE**

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The owner and operators of the Highland Gun Barn in Highland, Michigan, were sentenced after having been found guilty by a federal jury in Detroit of dealing in firearms without a license, United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Thomas Brandon of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Gabriel Kish III, 66 was sentenced on September 1, 2009, to 48 months in federal prison, to be followed by a two-year term of supervised release. Deborah Summers, 55, was sentenced on September 14, 2009, to 57 months in federal prison, to be followed by a two-year term of supervised release. Kish and Summers were sentenced by United States District Judge Robert H. Cleland, who allowed them to remain on bond until they report to their designated federal prisons.

During the April 2009 trial, the evidence presented showed that Gabriel Kish had built the Highland Gun Barn, 2525 Highland Road (M-59), in Oakland County during 1993, and operated it for many years with his companion and bookkeeper, Deborah Summers, under a federal license to deal in firearms as the Highland Gun Barn, Inc. ATF's Division of Industry Operations inspected the business; found falsified records; and revoked the license in 2005. Kish's son then applied for a federal license to deal in firearms at the Highland Gun Barn under a different business name, but later withdrew his application.

A convicted felon testified at trial that he had repeatedly traded stolen merchandise to Kish and Summers for firearms at the Highland Gun Barn in 2006 and 2007. After that felon was charged with a crime in Flint, he related this to ATF agents, leading to a lengthy undercover investigation during which agents purchased several firearms from Kish and Summers. A search warrant was executed on August 14, 2008, leading to the seizure of 477 firearms at the Gun Barn.

At trial Kish and Summers testified that they were merely selling off Summers' personal collection of about 150 firearms, for which no federal license is required, and that the remaining firearms were Kish's "family collection," which was not for sale. Evidence showed, however, that they were routinely purchasing firearms for sale to others, and therefore were engaged in the business of dealing in firearms, rather than merely selling off a personal collection.

United States Attorney Terrence Berg said, "The selling of firearms is highly regulated in order to protect the public from unscrupulous gun dealers and practices that increase the possibility that guns could be put into the hands of those who may commit crimes or do harm to others. The prosecution of gun dealers who operate without a license is an important part of our strategy to keep illegal guns off the street."

Special Agent in Charge Brandon stated, "ATF remains committed to identifying, investigating and recommending for federal prosecution those who deal in firearms without a federal firearms license. Our experience shows us that typically those who engage in this crime flood the streets with undocumented firearms that too often end up being used in violent

crimes.”

Berg commended the agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their dedication to this case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert Haviland.