

NEWS

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Camden Man Sentenced to 41 months in Prison For Illegal Possession of Firearms

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Camden man was sentenced to 41 months in federal prison today for illegally possessing two firearms, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Noel L. Hillman also ordered Henry N. Cole, 20, a.k.a. “Duke,” to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term. Judge Hillman remanded the defendant to the custody officials with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to begin serving his prison term. Cole has been held without bail in federal custody on a detainer filed for unrelated state charges in connection with the murder of 17-year-old Saad Brittingham in Camden on July 5, 2007.

Cole was initially arrested by Camden Police on July 15, 2007, for illegally possessing two handguns. The case was adopted for federal prosecution and a criminal Complaint was filed on July 25, 2007. According to the Complaint, during the afternoon of July 15 an off-duty Camden police officer was driving through the Centerville section of the city when he heard gun shots and then heard shouts from fellow officers that shots were being fired at officers.

According to the Complaint, the off-duty officer spotted three individuals jump from a vehicle and flee on foot. The officer chased the individuals and saw two of them enter a corner store. The officer entered the store and ordered the two individuals to the ground. One of the individuals, who was later identified as Cole, was found to be in possession of two revolvers. One of the handguns contained six spent shell casings and the other handgun contained four spent shell casings and two live rounds, including one hollow-point round.

Cole pleaded guilty before Judge Hillman on Feb. 4, 2008, to a one-count Information that charges him with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. At his plea hearing, Cole admitted that on the date charged, he and two other individuals were in a car that stopped near the intersection of 9th and Everett Streets and that they got out of the car and ran down 9th Street. Cole admitted that he and Manfred Younger, 22, of Camden, ran into a store at 10th and Thurman Streets and that they were followed in by a police officer who ordered them to get on the floor. Cole admitted being in possession of a Sturm, Ruger .357-caliber revolver and a Colt Lawman .357-caliber Magnum revolver at the time of his arrest. Furthermore, Cole agreed that the Colt handgun had been reported stolen. Prior to his possession of the two handguns, Cole was convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year, he admitted.

On April 14, 2008, Younger and three other Camden men pleaded guilty to conspiring to illegally possess four loaded firearms in Camden. At their plea hearings, Younger, Jeffrey Jones, 31, a.k.a. “Jazzy,” Anthony Parker, 24, and Abdullah Fussell, 26, admitted that on Sept. 27, 2007, they conspired and agreed with each other to illegally possess firearms, having known that each of them had previously been convicted of a felony. They also admitted that on that date, they possessed a loaded Smith & Wesson 9mm semi-automatic handgun; a loaded Beretta 9mm semi-automatic handgun; a loaded Heckler & Koch 9mm semi-automatic

handgun; and a loaded Hi-Point 9mm semi-automatic handgun. The four defendants were arrested by police officers with the Camden Police Department after the 2007 Buick Terranza they were traveling in was stopped for reckless driving.

The charge of possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Hillman will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited police officers with the Camden Police Department, under the direction of Chief Edward Hargis; Special Agents of the FBI's South Jersey Resident Agency, under the direction of, Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarck in Philadelphia; and the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Warren W. Faulk, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason M. Richardson of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Cole - Christopher O'Malley, Esq. Assistant Federal Public Defender