

NEWS

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Bloods Gang Member Indicted Gun Charges

(More)

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TRENTON – A member of the Bloods street gang in Trenton was indicted today on federal gun charges, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr., announced.

A federal grand jury sitting in Trenton returned a three-count Indictment today which charges Darnell Allen, 23, of Hamilton, with three counts of possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon. Allen will have an arraignment in the coming weeks once the case has been assigned to a U.S. District Judge.

Allen was arrested on a federal criminal Complaint on Sept. 1, 2009, by Special Agents with the ATF. According to the Complaint, Allen is known to law enforcement officials to be a member of the Bloods street gang. On Aug. 17, 2009, Allen sold a handgun to an individual who was cooperating with Special Agents of the ATF, according to the Complaint,

The Indictment alleges that Allen, a previously convicted felon, illegally possessed a firearm on three separate occasions in August 2009. According to the Indictment, Allen possessed a Hi-Point .380 caliber handgun on Aug. 17; an Intratec, Model TEC-9, 9 millimeter pistol on Aug. 20; and a Taurus .45 caliber pistol on Aug. 31.

Each count 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, the judge to whom the case is assigned would, upon a conviction, 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.

Despite indictment, the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Marra credited Special Agents of the ATF, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Matthew W. Horace, with the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jimmy Kitchen of the Criminal Division in Trenton.

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Defense Attorney: David Schafer, Esq. Trenton