



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

Acting United States Attorney Andrew T. Baxter and Oneida County District Attorney Scott D. McNamara announced today that Cortlin R. Minor, age 49, of Utica, New York, was sentenced on February 6, 2009 by Chief United States District Judge Norman A. Mordue to serve 46 months in federal prison to be followed by three years of supervised release in connection with his conviction for Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

On September 12, 2008, Minor pled guilty to possessing a firearm after having previously been convicted of a felony (Rape in the First Degree). The case stemmed from events that took place at approximately 2:00 a.m. on April 23, 2008 in the City of Utica. Minor, a convicted felon, was smoking crack cocaine in an automobile when he saw Utica Police on routine patrol in the area. Minor panicked and sped off, bringing himself to the attention of Utica Police units. A high-speed chase ensued through the City of Utica with the defendant at times hitting speeds of approximately 65 mph and passing through numerous stop signs and red lights.

Eventually, the chase became sufficiently dangerous that Utica Police broke-off the pursuit near the city limits. Oneida County Sheriffs took up the chase and stopped the defendant. The defendant was taken into custody, and an inventory search of his vehicle revealed a .25 caliber Lorcin semi-automatic pistol and fifteen live rounds of ammunition in the trunk of the vehicle.

The case was jointly reviewed by federal and state prosecutors as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, the United States Department of Justice Anti-Firearms Violence Program. The case was transferred to federal court and a Federal Grand Jury indicted the defendant for offenses related to his possession of the firearm and ammunition as a convicted felon. The case was jointly investigated by the Utica Police Department, the Oneida County Sheriffs Department and the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”).

Further inquiries can be directed to the Assistant United States Attorney Richard R. Southwick at 315-448-0672 or Oneida County Assistant District Attorney Grant Garramone at 315-798-5766.