

Department of Justice

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MAN SENTENCED TO 4 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS AND FOR BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

BUFFALO, N.Y.—United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that RICHARD THOMAS KENNEDY, 59, of Buffalo, NY, was sentenced by the Honorable Richard J. Arcara, U.S. District Court Judge to 4 years in prison, following his convictions for trafficking firearms and being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy C. Lynch stated that the members of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives from April through October of 2010, conducted an investigation concerning the illegal sale of firearms in the Buffalo, New York area. Special Agents of the ATF, having received information that KENNEDY was illegally selling firearms, used a cooperating witness to approach the defendant about purchasing firearms. On three separate occasions from April through October, 2010, the ATF agents, using the cooperating witness, were able to purchase two semiautomatic pistols, a revolver and a semiautomatic rifle from the defendant, along with a sizable amount of ammunition for each of the weapons.

The investigation further revealed that Kennedy had previously been convicted of a felony offense, that is a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year and therefore was prohibited by federal law from possessing firearms and ammunition. Lynch stated, in court, that on October 28, 2010, Special Agents of the ATF executed a search warrant at the residence of the defendant and confiscated 4 shotguns, 6 semiautomatic rifles and one Colt .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol. They also confiscated over 20,000 rounds of assorted ammunition from the residence.

The sentencing in this case was the culmination of an investigation by Special Agents of the Buffalo Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Francis J. Christiano.

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