



# Department of Justice

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## **CINCINNATI MAN SENTENCED TO 32 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR ILLEGALLY BUYING GUNS ON BEHALF OF OTHERS**

### *Four of five guns recovered from crime scenes and high-crime areas*

CINCINNATI – Aaron Harvey, 23, of Cincinnati was sentenced in United States District Court here to 32 months in prison for buying five handguns for individuals who were prohibited from buying and possessing guns themselves, a practice known as “straw purchasing.”

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Cincinnati Police Chief Thomas H. Streicher, Jr. announced the sentence handed down late yesterday by United States District Judge Michael R. Barrett.

A jury convicted Harvey on June 22, 2009 of one count of making a false statement during the purchase of a firearm. The jury found that Harvey lied when he bought handguns on August 7, 2007.

Four of the five guns Harvey bought were recovered from crime scenes and high-crime areas. The crimes committed with at least three of the guns were drug trafficking crimes and one was recovered after a double shooting. The fifth gun has not been recovered.

According to court documents filed by the government prior to sentencing, “instead of legitimately earning a living, defendant preferred to advance the goals of criminals by putting guns in their hands. Thus, he is directly responsible for the violence and crime that resulted. He funneled firearms into communities riddled with violence and ravaged by drugs.”

People who have been convicted of felonies in either state or federal court are prohibited from buying or possessing handguns. Some of these people who are prohibited from buying firearms recruit others who have no prior criminal record to buy guns for them, a practice known as “straw purchasing.” Gun buyers have to sign a form stating that they are buying the gun for themselves. Harvey was convicted of lying on this form.

This case was investigated by the Project Disarm Task Force, a partnership between ATF, the Cincinnati Police Department and Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters’ Office focused on reducing gun violence in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Project Disarm is the local extension of Project Safe Neighborhoods, an intense nationwide coordinated effort by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to target communities with persistent high levels of drug and gun crime and vigorously prosecute them in federal court. For more information on Project Safe Neighborhoods, visit [www.psn.gov](http://www.psn.gov).

Stewart commended the investigation by Cincinnati police officers and ATF agents, as well as the prosecution of the case by Assistant United States Attorneys Jennifer C. Barry and Karl P. Kadon.

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