



PRESS NOTICE

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For Immediate Release

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Man Convicted of Gun Charge in Federal Court

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles announced today that Benjamin Devon Goss was convicted following a three day jury trial in United States District Court in Charleston. The Honorable Richard M. Gergel presided over the case.

Testimony developed during trial showed that on October 4, 2010 Goss was spotted by Charleston Police Department Officer Carlos Torres, walking near Johnson St. and America St., with a handgun tucked into his waistband. Upon seeing Goss with the gun, Officer Torres ordered Goss to stop, and Goss fled through a nearby apartment complex. Officer Torres pursued on foot, and while fleeing, Goss discarded the handgun into a large set of bushes. Officer Torres continued the foot pursuit, and with the assistance of other officers, was able to apprehend Goss. The gun, a HiPoint .380, was later recovered where Officer Torres reported it dropped, and was found loaded with eight rounds.

At trial, Goss presented several witnesses, including his brother, who claimed that he, in fact, dropped the gun that police had recovered, and claimed that the police had arrested the wrong individual.

Goss was convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g), for being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition. He faces up to ten years imprisonment, and a mandatory minimum fifteen years imprisonment if he is found at sentencing to have three prior convictions for either violent felonies or serious drug offenses.

The case was investigated by the City of Charleston Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorneys Nathan Williams prosecuted the case.

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