



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shawn Tyson Sentenced to 18 Months in Prison on Federal Firearms' Convictions

St. Thomas, USVI - United States District Court Judge Curtis V. Gomez, on November 17, 2011, sentenced Shawn Tyson (Tyson), age 25, to 18 months in prison on federal firearms' convictions, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced today. The Court also sentenced Tyson to three years of supervised release, and a special assessment in the amount of \$1,400.00.

On January 16, 2009, a jury in the District of the Virgin Islands convicted defendant Shawn Tyson of numerous federal firearms offenses, including one count of conspiracy to traffic firearm, twelve counts of transporting a firearm in the course of dealing firearms without a license, one count of transporting a firearm with knowledge or reasonable cause to believe that it would be used to commit a crime, one count of transferring a firearm to an out-of-state resident, and one count of conspiring to unlawfully transport firearms. The jury also found Tyson guilty of ten counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm under Virgin Islands law. On the day of the initial sentencing, by memorandum opinion, the District Court granted Tyson's motion for a judgment of acquittal on each of the federal counts thereby dismissing those counts of conviction. The District Court then sentenced Tyson to a term of incarceration of 60 months

imprisonment on the local counts of which 30 months were suspended. Tyson was also sentenced to 30 months of supervised probation as well as a \$5,000.00 fine.

On August 3, 2011, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit reversed the District Court's decision to dismiss the federal counts and remanded the case to the District Court with instructions to reinstate all federal counts with the exception of the federal conspiracy count. The Court of Appeals also remanded the matter for re-sentencing on the reinstated federal counts.

United States Attorney Sharpe expressed appreciation for the investigative efforts of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm and Explosives, the United States Marshals Service, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Virgin Islands Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Kim L. Chisholm and Ishmael Meyers, Jr., and former Assistant United States Attorney St. Clair Theodore.