

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Morris Brown, 24, of Madison, Wis., was sentenced yesterday by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 76 months in prison, without the possibility of parole, for unlawfully possessing a loaded pistol as a convicted felon. Brown pleaded guilty to this charge on January 22, 2009.

On July 6, 2008, there was a shooting at an apartment complex in the 1500 block of Troy Drive in Madison. Responding officers recovered a .22 caliber shell casing in the parking lot of the apartment complex. On July 8, 2008, officers responded to the same location to investigate an alleged burglary in progress. Witnesses gave a physical description of the alleged burglar, as well as a description of the car he was driving. Officers ran the license plate number of the car, which led them to the apartment of Brown's girlfriend. When officers went to the apartment, the girlfriend let them in. Brown was asleep on the couch with the loaded pistol next to his hand. Brown subsequently admitted to having the pistol for protection.

An analysis from the State Crime Laboratory revealed that the recovered .22 shell casing from the July 6 shooting had been discharged from Brown's pistol, and Brown

admitted he was the July 6 shooter.

Brown received a 76-month sentence because of his role in the shooting and because he has two prior convictions for crimes of violence.

The charge against Brown was the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution of this case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

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