



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

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<http://www.justice.gov/usao/dc/news/2011/apr/news.html>

Two Men Sentenced to Prison Terms For 2009 Attack Against Two Special Police Officers in Southeast Washington - One Officer Was Shot in the Arm -

WASHINGTON - Eric Brown, 20, and Markell Howard, 21, both of Washington, D.C. have been sentenced to prison terms on charges stemming from a November 2009 attack against two special police officers, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced. One of the officers was shot in the arm and the other managed to avoid the gunfire.

Brown was sentenced to a 12-year prison term for assault on a police officer, assault with intent to kill, and possession of a firearm during a crime of violence. Howard was sentenced to 10 years in prison for assault with intent to kill and possession of a firearm during a crime of violence. They pled guilty to those charges in January 2011, and were sentenced June 17, 2011 by the Honorable Ronna L. Beck in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

According to the government's proffer of facts, Brown and Howard frequented the Vistas apartment complex, in the 2500 block of Pomeroy Road SE. Special Police Officers providing security at the complex, including Officer Larry Powell, had previously barred the men from the premises, citing repeated violations of the rules and regulations of the property. Despite being barred, Brown and Howard continued to frequent the property, and Officer Powell and his colleagues had to send them away on an almost daily basis.

On November 23, 2009, Officer Powell and Special Police Officer Anthony Holt spotted the men once again at the complex, in violation of barring notices prohibiting them from being on the property. When Brown and Howard saw the officers approaching, they fled the area on foot.

On this night, however, Brown and Howard decided to retaliate. After Officer Powell and Officer Holt went off duty, they walked toward the Anacostia Metro station to make their way home. As they were walking along Sheridan Road SE, parallel to the Suitland Parkway, Brown and Howard drove up behind them in a dark-colored Cadillac with heavily tinted windows. Howard was driving, and Brown was in the front passenger seat. When the Cadillac got close to

the officers, Brown rolled down the window and opened fire with a .45 caliber handgun. Officer Powell, who saw Brown point the gun out the window just before he opened fire, pushed Officer Holt to the ground to protect him from the gunfire. Brown fired at least four rounds at the officers, striking Officer Powell once in the upper arm.

The defendants then sped away. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) investigated the case and obtained arrest warrants against the two men.

In announcing the sentencings, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of MPD Detectives Joseph Della-Camera, Gregory Pemberton, and Dan Lewis, as well as Officers Vincent Norris, Christopher Dyke, Demar Rodgers, Steven Murrell, and Todd Williams. He also acknowledged the efforts of those who worked on the case at the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Sroka, who presented the case to the grand jury, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Swaney, who prepared the case for trial, negotiated the plea agreement, and handled the sentencing hearing.

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