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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY JANUARY 28, 2011
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CHICAGO MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A HANDGUN

CHICAGO — A Chicago man was sentenced today to 15 years in federal prison for possessing a firearm after having been convicted of a felony offense, federal law enforcement officials announced. **Jimmy Brown**, 26, who last resided in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood in Chicago, received the mandatory minimum sentence for an armed career criminal in Federal Court. Brown, who faced a maximum of life in prison, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

Brown was tried and convicted by a jury in December 2009 of illegally possessing a firearm on March 16, 2008, in Chicago. Evidence showed that Chicago police officers observed Brown and others outside a house in the 7700 block of South Marshfield. One of the officers observed a gun in Brown's waistband and officers pursued Brown in their vehicle and on foot. The weapon, a .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun, was found in Brown's hand when he was apprehended. Brown, a member of the Gangster Disciples street gang, has three prior robbery convictions since 2001.

The case was investigated by the Chicago Police Department and the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF) as part of the Justice Department's

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program. The Cook County State's Attorney's Office, which initially brought charges, later referred the case to the U.S. Attorney's Office for federal prosecution.

The government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Nathalina Hudson and Greg Deis.

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