



CONTACT NUMBER: 815-987-4444

February 20, 2004

**ROCKFORD RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY
TO ILLEGALLY POSSESSING A FIREARM**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; LARRY FORD, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF); PAUL A. LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; and STEVEN PUGH, Rockford Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

EDWARD D. HALEY, 25 (DOB: 4/19/78), formerly of 2808 Canterbury Lane, Rockford, Illinois, pled guilty today in federal court in Rockford to the federal charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

In pleading guilty, Haley admitted that on July 1, 2002, at approximately 1:33 a.m., he was a passenger in a vehicle attempting to evade Rockford Police Officers by weaving in and out of traffic, traveling at a high rate of speed, and making several turns at quick intervals. At one point the vehicle drove into oncoming traffic. The vehicle came to a rolling stop when Haley jumped out of the passenger side and the vehicle sped away. Haley admitted that as he turned to run from the vehicle, he held a Smith & Wesson .40 caliber semi automatic pistol in his hand. Haley then tripped over the curb, dropped the gun and was attempting to flee, when a police officer pursued him. Haley was then arrested. Haley, who was previously convicted of a felony, admitted he knowingly possessed the gun which had traveled across state lines prior to his possession of it.

First charged by the Winnebago County States Attorney's Office under state law, Haley was transferred to federal court where he was charged under tough federal firearms laws as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an intensive, cooperative effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement to attack gun crimes. The cornerstone of the program is that every state defendant with a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to obtain the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at www.psn.gov.

Sentencing for Haley will be conducted on April 23, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. Haley faces a possible maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The Rockford Office of the ATF and the Rockford Police Department investigated this case. It is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Monica V. Mallory.

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