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April 27, 2006

**ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 262 MONTHS IN PRISON  
FOR POSSESSING A FIREARM AS A CONVICTED FELON AND  
FOR THREATENING AND TAMPERING WITH WITNESSES**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; PAUL LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; and CHET EPPERSON, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

Today, United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced **DAVID ENGLAND**, 27 (DOB: 2/7/1979), formerly of 336 Ridgeview Avenue, Rockford, Illinois, to 262 months in federal prison, without parole, for possessing a firearm as a convicted felon, and for threatening and tampering with witnesses. The court also ordered England to three years of supervised release following his release from prison. England was found guilty on January 6, 2006, following a four-day jury trial in federal court in Rockford.

England was arrested on September 22, 2004, as a result of an investigation conducted by Rockford Police Detectives into an incident on September 15, 2004, involving damage to property and the discharge of a firearm. On March 1, 2005, a federal indictment charged England with possessing a firearm as a convicted felon, and attempting to persuade witnesses to provide him with a false alibi and to hide a vehicle in which England's 9mm pistol was concealed. England was also charged with threatening to kill a witness in an attempt to prevent that witness from testifying concerning his possession of the firearm.

First charged by the Winnebago County States Attorney's Office under state law, England 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 defendant charged in state court for an offense involving 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](http://www.psn.gov).

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Rockford Police Department, with the assistance of the Cherry Valley Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Monica V. Mallory and John G. McKenzie.

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