



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David Capp Northern District of Indiana

5400 Federal Plaza, Suite 1500
Hammond, Indiana 46320

Hammond

South Bend

Fort Wayne

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www.usdoj.gov/usao/inn/

CONTACT: Mary Hatton

PHONE: (219) 937-5603

FAX (219) 852-2770

FIREARMS TRAFFICKING ALLEGED

Hammond, Indiana- United States Attorney David Capp announced today that a federal grand jury returned a nine count Indictment charging three Lafayette men with gun crimes. This indictment was the result of a cooperative law enforcement effort by the Lafayette Police Department, the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department, the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Enforcement (ATF).

Joshua Lee Robinson, 21, was charged in four counts with being a felon in possession of a firearm, having been convicted of two earlier felony offenses in Tippecanoe County; being an unlawful user of a controlled substance, heroin, in possession of a firearm; possession of stolen firearms; and, possession of a firearm with an altered serial number.

Tyler Wayne McCoy, 21, was charged in three counts with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance, heroin, in possession of a firearm; possession of stolen firearms; and possession of a firearm with an altered serial number.

Nicholas Jackson, 20, was charged with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance, marijuana, in possession of a firearm, and possession of a firearm with an altered serial number.

Local authorities investigated several home burglaries in which weapons and other items had been stolen. The investigation led to Joshua Robinson and Tyler McCoy. Robinson and McCoy were charged with Class B burglary, Class D residential entry and Class D theft by the

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor. Robinson and McCoy are in custody in the Tippecanoe County jail. Federal detainers have been lodged against Robinson and McCoy. Jackson was arrested on the federal warrant on Friday.

The investigation revealed that the stolen guns were destined for resale in Chicago.

United States Attorney Capp stated: “This investigation clearly demonstrates the regional nature of the crime problem. Citizens in Tippecanoe County are being victimized by the demand for stolen weapons in a city some 125 miles away.”

Capp explained that his office, in conjunction with the United States Department of Justice – Criminal Division, and the ATF, is focusing more resources on the movement of guns from Indiana to the streets of Chicago, where they often spill back over into northwest Indiana. A key to this strategy is to work closely with local authorities as was done here.

Capp praised the thorough investigation done by the Lafayette Police Department and the Tippecanoe County Sheriff’s Department. Capp stated, “We have always had an excellent working relationship with our law enforcement colleagues here. I am particularly grateful for the close working relationship with Pat Harrington’s office. His office moved immediately against the two individuals committing these burglaries and they are off the streets. That gave us time to put our case together. We will continue to charge offenders like this in both the state and federal systems.”

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick Harrington stated: “Tippecanoe County citizens are increasingly aware of the interstate movement of criminals. We are no longer immune from the reach of the out of state criminal element. We appreciate the teamwork and assistance provided by the United States Attorney’s Office and the ATF, who have the authority and ability to track down and prosecute those who mistakenly believe a county or state line will slow down our efforts to hold them accountable.”

This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas Padilla and Special Assistant United States Attorney Armando Salinas.

The United States Attorney's Office emphasized that an Indictment is merely an allegation and that all persons charged are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.