

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Palmyra Man Sentenced to 60 Months in Federal Prison for Illegally
Dealing in Firearms and Crack Cocaine Distribution

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Palmyra man was sentenced to 60 months in federal prison today for illegally selling firearms and crack cocaine at area shopping malls parking lots, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr., announced.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler also ordered Joseph Adams, 26, to serve 5 years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term.

On Feb. 20, 2009, Adams pleaded guilty before Judge Kugler to a three-count Indictment that charged him with one count of engaging in the business of dealing in firearms without being a federally licensed firearms dealer and two counts of illegally trafficking in crack cocaine.

At his plea hearing, Adams admitted that between April 4 and June 21, 2007, on six separate occasions in Burlington or Camden Counties, he sold six firearms to an individual who was cooperating with law enforcement. Adams admitted those firearms included; a Colt .45 caliber handgun with a defaced serial number; a Smith and Wesson .357 caliber handgun; a Norinco 7.62 x 39mm caliber rifle; a High Standard .22 caliber handgun; a Lorcin .25 caliber handgun; and a Smith and Wesson .38 caliber handgun,

Furthermore, Adams admitted that on Feb. 17, 2007, he sold 6.95 grams of crack cocaine to the same individual. Adams again sold 2.79 grams of crack cocaine to the same individual on June 21, 2007, only this time he possessed a Smith and Wesson .38 caliber handgun during the drug transaction.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Kugler consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents of the ATF's Trenton Satellite Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Matthew W. Horace, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew T. Smith of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Lori Koch, Esq. Assistant Federal Public Defender