

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
402 East State Street, Room 430  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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gban1031.rel  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Oct. 31, 2006

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## Trenton Man Sentenced to 57 Months in Federal Prison for Possession of Firearm by a Felon

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(More)

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TRENTON – A Trenton man was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison today for possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Anne E. Thompson also ordered Robert Gbanapolor, 20, to pay a \$1,000 fine and to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison sentence.

At his plea hearing on May 31, 2006, Gbanapolor admitted that he was convicted on a state charge of drug possession with intent to distribute in February 2005. Subsequent to that conviction, Gbanapolor admitted that on the evening of June 15, 2005, he possessed a loaded 40 caliber Glock pistol.

According to charges filed by the Trenton Police Department, police officers, while on patrol in the area of West Trenton, observed the defendant holding a handgun while standing in the street in the 200 block of Rosemont Avenue. The defendant was then arrested without incident.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Thompson consulted the 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.

Christie credited Police Officers with the Trenton Police Department, under the direction of Director Joseph Santiago, and the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr., for their investigative work that resulted in the guilty plea.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan D. Levy, of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Trenton.

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Defense Attorney: Lisa Van Hoeck, Esq. AFPD