



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476

(215) 861-8200

December 20, 2007

NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced the filing of a two count indictment¹ charging Randy Thompson with one count of making false statement to a federal firearms dealer (“FFL”) and aiding and abetting, and one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon on May 10, 2007. The rules and regulations governing FFL holders require that a person seeking to purchase a handgun fill out a “Firearms Transaction Record,” ATF Form 4473. Part of the Form 4473 requires that the prospective purchaser certify truthfully, subject to penalties of perjury, that he or she was the actual buyer of the firearm. The Form 4473 contains language warning that “[t]he federal firearms laws require that the individual filling out this form must be buying the firearm for himself or as a gift. Any individual who is not buying the firearm for himself/herself or as a gift, but who completes this form, violates the law.” A person who purchases a firearm for another person and falsely completes the Form 4473 is a “straw purchaser.” Acting as a straw purchaser is referred to as “lying and buying.”

This indictment is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, an initiative by the United States Attorney’s Office, all District Attorney’s Offices in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Philadelphia Police Department and other law enforcement agencies, to identify and prosecute firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Randy Thompson	Philadelphia, PA	28 years old

The case was investigated by the Philadelphia Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, an initiative by the United States Attorney’s Office, Philadelphia County District Attorney’s Office, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) and Philadelphia City Police Department to identify and prosecute

¹An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

December 20, 2007

Page 2

firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendant is likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction. Assistant United States Attorney Marianne Cox will prosecute the case.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact:
PATTY HARTMAN
Media Contact
215-861-8525**

*COPIES OF NEWS MEMOS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae>*