



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street
Suite 1250
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476
(215) 861-8200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2007

STRAW PURCHASER SENTENCED TO 137 MONTHS IN PRISON

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan announced today that U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence Stengel sentenced Tyrone Basnight, of Brooklyn New York, to 137 months in prison in connection with a straw purchasing case. Basnight pleaded guilty in February 2007 to all 14 counts charged in the (December 2005) indictment including aiding and abetting the making of false statements to federal firearms licensees in Reading, Pennsylvania, and possession of firearms by a convicted felon. Acting as a straw purchaser is referred to as “lying and buying.”

“With this sentence, the court applies the exclamation point: putting guns on the street illegally will not be tolerated,” said Meehan. “What makes this defendant particularly dangerous is his repetitive criminal conduct without fear of consequences. Today, it is clear that consequences await those who illegally put firearms on the street.”

The 137 month sentence was at the top of the 110 - 137 month advisory guideline range for Basnight’s crimes. He used others, including his sister and girlfriend, to straw purchase nine firearms on eight dates between May 14, 2004 and June 19, 2004 in the Reading area. Basnight is already serving a sentence in New York for Reckless Endangerment. The judge ordered today’s sentence to run consecutive to the New York sentence.

This case is part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, a federally funded program designed to identify and prosecute firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendant is likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction.

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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae)