



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

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September 25, 2007

NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan and Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham announced today the filing of a three-count Indictment¹ charging defendant **HAROLD BENSON** with committing the armed robbery of the Henry Avenue Pharmacy on January 13, 2007.

The indictment charges that during the robberies the defendant brandished a shotgun and shot and wounded an employee of the pharmacy. BENSON and his co-conspirators are alleged to have taken cash and drugs during the robbery.

If convicted of all counts in the indictment, the defendant is facing a maximum sentence of lifetime imprisonment, with a mandatory minimum of 10 years incarceration, up to 5 years supervised release, a \$750,000 fine and a \$300 special assessment.

This investigation and prosecution was part of *Project Safe Neighborhoods*, a joint initiative by the United States Attorney's Office, each of the nine District Attorney's Offices in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute dangerous firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction.

This case has been investigated by the FBI, the Philadelphia Police Department and other state and local law enforcement agencies. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Francis C. Barbieri, Jr.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
HAROLD BENSON	Philadelphia, PA	20 years old

¹ **An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.**

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