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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALLENTOWN MAN GETS 212 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR STRAW PURCHASES

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan announced that U.S. District Court Judge James Knoll Gardner sentenced Nashawn Omar Law, Friday, to 212 months in prison and 3 years supervised released. Law pled guilty on April 10, 2007 to 41 counts of aiding and abetting the making of false statements to federal firearms licensees, one count of dealing in firearms without a license, 30 counts of possession of firearms by a convicted felon and one count of witness tampering.

Law admitted using others to purchase 51 firearms from Lehigh Valley gun businesses and reselling the firearms on the black market from March 2003 through May 2005.

“Anyone who tries to sidestep the law, especially with regard to firearms, is a danger to society,” said Meehan. “This defendant was of particular concern because the firearms that he was obtaining illegally, he was then selling to other felons. We’re gratified that the 222 Corridor Anti-Gang Initiative has succeeded in getting him off the street for a substantial amount of time.”

A person who purchases a firearm for another person and falsely completes the paperwork that licensed dealers are required to maintain is a "straw purchaser." This paperwork is meant to ensure that prohibited persons, such as convicted felons, do not acquire firearms and that firearms which are recovered by law enforcement agencies may be traced. Acting as a straw purchaser is referred to as “lying and buying.” Law admitted that he solicited nine individuals with clean criminal records to purchase firearms for him. He then used a power drill to obliterate the serial numbers on some of these firearms resold them on the black market in New Jersey and possibly elsewhere.

This case is part of the “222 Corridor Anti-Gang Initiative,” a federally funded program designed to defeat some of the most violent and pervasive gangs in the country. The “222 Corridor” includes the cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Reading, Lancaster, York, and Harrisburg. This initiative combines federal, state, and local law enforcement resources to attack gang crime and violence throughout the corridor.”

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