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HUNTINGTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL GUN CHARGE

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. – Christopher L. Vest, 22, of Huntington, West Virginia, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Vest, who is scheduled to be sentenced on January 31, 2011, faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The conviction stems from a complaint made to law enforcement on June 2, 2010, regarding an incident in an apartment building in the 1300 block of Huntington Avenue. Upon responding, agents received consent from the landlord to search the common areas of the building, including the stairwell. The agents then called for a drug dog, who indicated the presence of drugs at the door of Vest's apartment. Subsequently, agents obtained a search warrant and found a .45 caliber handgun in Vest's bedroom. Vest was prohibited from possessing a firearm by virtue of a 2007 felony conviction in the Circuit Court of Cabell County for manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance.

The Huntington Drug and Violent Crime Task Force conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney R. Gregory McVey is handling the prosecution.

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