



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
District of Maryland

Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney

Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer

36 South Charles Street
4th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov

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CONTACT AUSA VICKIE E. LEDUC or
MARCIA MURPHY at (410) 209-4885

**LANDOVER MAN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ILLEGAL GUN
POSSESSION**

Greenbelt, Maryland - U.S. District Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. sentenced Bryan Odell Stewart, age 31, of Landover, Maryland, today to 8 years in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release for being a felon in possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein.

According to Stewart's guilty plea, on April 26, 2008, an officer of the Seat Pleasant Police Department saw a green BMW weaving over the center line on Martin Luther King Jr. highway in Seat Pleasant. The officer stopped the weaving car and approached the driver of the vehicle, Bryan Odell Stewart. While at the driver's side window, the officer could smell a strong odor of marijuana emanating from the car. After determining that Stewart's license to drive had been suspended, the officer issued him traffic citations and impounded his car. While conducting an inventory of the contents of the car, the officer recovered from the trunk a plastic bag that contained 458 grams of marijuana. The officer arrested Stewart, and then found a plastic bag containing 30 grams of marijuana in his jacket pocket. The officer also recovered from under the driver's seat a loaded AMT Model Backup .380 pistol bearing an obliterated serial number. Stewart had previously been convicted in Prince George's County Circuit Court of possession with intent to distribute cocaine and was prohibited from possessing a firearm.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Seat Pleasant Police Department for their investigative work and commended Assistant United States Attorneys Michael R. Pauze and Mara B. Zusman, who prosecuted the case.