



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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ST. PETERSBURG MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

Tampa, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge Virginia M. Hernandez-Covington sentenced Aaron Cainion (32, St. Petersburg) to twenty-six years and eight months in federal prison for possessing cocaine with the intent to distribute it, possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and possessing a firearm and ammunition after having been convicted of a felony offense. The court also ordered Cainion to forfeit a Smith and Wesson handgun and five rounds of ammunition. Cainion will be required to pay restitution in the amount of \$5,583.22 to the City of Tampa for damage he caused to a Tampa Police vehicle, and \$7,949.35 to DTG Operations of Tulsa, Oklahoma, for damage he caused to a rental car.

Cainion was found guilty on June 23, 2010 after a trial. According to evidence presented at trial, Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputies and Tampa Police Department officers attempted to pull over Cainion for reckless driving, on I-275 in Tampa. He led law enforcement on a high-speed, 100 mph chase across the Howard Frankland Bridge and into St. Petersburg. During the chase, Cainion hit a police car and a minivan. After he exited at 54th Avenue, officers used a precision immobilization technique to end the chase.

When officers removed Cainion from the car, they found him in possession of over 800 grams of cocaine, \$3,024, and a loaded Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun. Subsequent investigation revealed Cainion to be a convicted felon.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Tampa Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher F. Murray