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CONVICTED FELON SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON ON FIREARMS CHARGES

Still Faces State Second Degree Murder Charges

Monroe, Louisiana. . . **MARCUS C. WILLIAMS**, 34, of Monroe, Louisiana, will spend the next 10 years in prison for federal firearms charges, U. S. Attorney Donald Washington announced today. Chief United States District Judge Robert G. James imposed the maximum possible sentence under the statute. WILLIAMS also received three years of supervised release to be served after his 10-year sentence.

WILLIAMS was charged in March 2008 in a two-count federal indictment and was later convicted at trial of possession of four firearms and ammunition by a convicted felon. WILLIAMS also faces attempted second degree murder charges in state court stemming from the same incident.

Testimony at trial revealed that when the Monroe Police Department responded to a shooting call at 115 Bunch Circle on October 5, 2007, WILLIAMS had been shot and subsequently transported to LSU Health Sciences Center in Monroe. Following an investigation into the shooting, three more firearms and ammunition belonging to WILLIAMS were found. The investigation also revealed that WILLIAMS had

at least three prior felony convictions, including possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

U. S. Attorney Donald Washington stated: “Violence has been a way of life for this defendant. State and federal prosecutors and law enforcement officers must aggressively pursue these violent criminals and bring them to justice. In each case, my office will seek the longest possible prison terms for those who threaten public safety.”

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001 and was designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. This case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Shreveport Field Office, in conjunction with the Monroe Police Department and was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorneys Cytheria D. Jernigan and Mary J. Mudrick.

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