

Department of Justice

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TWO MEN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL SHORTENING OF STOLEN SHOTGUNS

BUFFALO, N.Y.– U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Daniel P. Lewandowski, 21, of Java, New York and William S. Webster, 19, of Warsaw, New York, who were convicted of illegally making firearms, were sentenced to 63 months in prison and three years supervised release by U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Maigret, who handled the case, stated that in July 2010, Lewandowski and Webster forced entry into the Wyoming Gun Center in Java Center, New York and stole 16 firearms that were part of the inventory of the federally licensed firearms dealer. Subsequently, the defendants illegally shortened the barrel and stock of two of the stolen firearms, both .410 shotguns.

On July 25, 2010, Lewandowski took one of the sawed off shotguns and, with another individual driving a vehicle, proceeded to shoot out several car windows and shoot at various signs and residences in Java Center. The resulting investigation by the Wyoming County Sheriff's Department, with the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Explosives, resulted in the arrest of Lewandowski for these crimes of felony criminal mischief and the arrest of Lewandowski and Webster for the theft of the firearms and the illegal shortening of the two shotguns. All of the stolen firearms were recovered.

As a result of the burglary of his business and theft of his firearms, the owner closed the Wyoming Gun Center. Judge Arcara ordered the defendants to make restitution to the owner for damage to his store and the value of the two shotguns they illegally shortened.

The sentencings are the result of an investigation conducted by Deputy Sheriffs and Sheriff's Investigators of the Wyoming County Sheriff's Department under the direction of Sheriff Farris Heimann, assisted by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Frank Christiano,

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