



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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OSCEOLA COUNTY FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL FIREARM CHARGE

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton today announced that Mario Maurice Small (age 40, of Kissimmee) has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm after having been convicted of a felony. The maximum penalty Small faces is ten years in federal prison. Small had been indicted by a federal grand jury on December 3, 2008. A sentencing date has been set for June 10, 2009.

According to the plea agreement, on October 18, 2008, Small met with a confidential informant who was working in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). In a video-recorded transaction, Small sold the confidential informant a 9mm caliber semi-automatic pistol with an obliterated serial number. Small is a convicted felon and prohibited from possessing firearms under federal law

This case was the culmination of a joint investigation by the DEA, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Kissimmee Police Department, the Osceola County Sheriff's Office, the City of Orlando Police Department, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). It is part of Operation "Kissimmee Crackdown," which targets violent crime, as well as illegal drug and firearms trafficking, in the McLaren Circle area of Kissimmee, Florida. To date, the operation has resulted in approximately 60 state and federal arrests of criminal defendants.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.