



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 22, 2004

*Contact: Davilyn Brackin
Public Affairs Specialist
(409) 839-2538*

CONVICTED FELON SENTENCED FOR GUN POSSESSION

(Beaumont, Texas) A 46-year-old Lufkin man has been sentenced to 110 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm and possession of a firearm during, and in relation to, a crime of drug trafficking. **JAMES HAROLD KING** was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Ron Clark.

According to information presented in court, King was arrested on October 13, 2003, after a call from a Wal-Mart employee in Lufkin reported suspicious activity. King and another individual were purchasing items commonly used for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine. When Lufkin police officers attempted to detain King, he fled in his vehicle. King was apprehended and found to be in the possession of a firearm, methamphetamine, and common components in the manufacture of methamphetamine. He pleaded guilty to the charges on March 10, 2004. King has two prior felony convictions for Possession of a Controlled Substance in Tarrant County; one in 1997 and one in 2000. He also has a prior felony conviction for Robbery in Angelina County in 1997.

---more---

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, praised the Lufkin Police for getting another armed and dangerous felon off the streets, "Convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms for a reason. Violators can expect vigorous federal prosecution and hard time in prison. 110 months is a serious amount of time."

Orwig went on to praise the watchful eye of the employee who reported the suspicious activity, "Citizens are playing a major role in the war on drugs. Store employees are encouraged to remain observant and report suspicious activity to authorities."

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a comprehensive strategic approach to reducing gun violence in America by promoting partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

The case was investigated by the Lufkin Police Department. Special Assistant United States Attorney Lisa Flournoy prosecuted the case.

###