



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias  
Northern District of Georgia

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

## **FUGITIVE WANTED ON DRUG CHARGES CAPTURED, MAKES INITIAL APPEARANCE IN ROME**

Atlanta, GA - BARRY EDWARD BAGWELL, 50, of Kingston, Floyd County, Georgia, has made an initial appearance before a United States Magistrate Judge in Rome late this morning on multiple drug and weapons charges.

David E. Nahmias, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, said of the arrest and charges, "This defendant was seen by our law enforcement partners in North Georgia as being particularly dangerous as a felon in possession of weapons, and has a history of dealing methamphetamine. This combination of guns, drugs, and being on the run made him a specific threat to the safety of the communities in North Georgia. We commend the Safe Streets Task Force and particularly the Gordon County Sheriff's Office, which took on a major role in bringing this defendant to justice."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the criminal complaint filed in this case and other information presented in court: Since July 2008, BAGWELL, convicted of four prior felonies, and released from a state prison in June 2008, allegedly has been involved in the distribution of methamphetamine, as well as allegedly selling stolen firearms. A cooperating witness in the investigation had made a number of face-to-face meetings with BAGWELL, arranging the sale of both drug buys and the purchase of weapons, all made in the Floyd County area.

At one point in the investigation, an undercover agent from the Bartow County Sheriff's Office was also introduced to BAGWELL which resulted in more "buys" of drugs and guns. BAGWELL at one point sold a .22 caliber rifle, calling it a "good hit man gun," to undercover officers. A federal arrest warrant was issued for BAGWELL, who found out that law enforcement authorities were about to arrest him, and he fled his Floyd County home to avoid arrest. For the next 90 days, BAGWELL allegedly hid out in various homes in Northwest Georgia, until he was found and arrested by Gordon County Sheriffs, Bartow County Sheriffs, and the ATF on February 9, 2009, at a convenience store near Sonoraville, Georgia.

Members of the public are reminded that the criminal complaint in this case contains

only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta recommends parents and children learn about the dangers of drugs at the following web site: [www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com).

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the FBI Safe Streets Task Force, which includes the ATF, Bartow County Sheriff's Department, Cartersville Police Department, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), the Floyd County Police Department, the Polk County Police Department, the Polk County Sheriff's Department, the Gordon County Sheriff's Department, and the Bartow-Cartersville Drug Task Force.

Assistant United States Attorney Paul Jones is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).