

October 11, 2002

**ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS IN PRISON  
FOR FEDERAL FIREARMS VIOLATION**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; W. LARRY FORD, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; Winnebago County Sheriff RICHARD A. MEYERS; and Rockford Chief of Police JEFF NIELSEN, today made the following announcement:

This morning, in federal court in Rockford, Illinois LARRY J. PURIFOY, 46 (DOB: 05/29/56), 417 Howard Avenue, Rockford, Illinois, was sentenced to 8 non-paroleable years in prison on his conviction for illegally possessing a firearm after being convicted of a felony. In addition to the 8 year prison term, U.S. District Judge Philip G. Reinhard ordered Purifoy to serve 3 years of supervised release following his release from prison and to pay fines and assessments totaling \$400.

On July 17, 2002, Purifoy pled guilty to possessing a firearm after previously being convicted of a felony. In his plea agreement, Purifoy admitted that on October 17, 2001, he possessed a .380 caliber pistol. On that date, officers from the Metro Narcotics Unit of the Rockford Police Department and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department executed a search warrant at Purifoy's apartment, located at 417 Howard Avenue in Rockford. Purifoy admitted that when the officers entered his apartment, he pointed the .380 pistol at one of the officers. When Purifoy pointed the .380 at the officer, that officer and two others raised their duty weapons, pointed them at Purifoy, and ordered him to drop his weapon. Purifoy further admitted that he continued to point the gun at the officers for about 10 to 15 seconds while the officers repeatedly instructed him to drop the gun. Eventually Purifoy dropped the gun and the officers seized it. When the officers inspected Purifoy's gun, they saw that it was loaded with six live rounds, one of which was in the firing chamber.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and the Metro Narcotics Unit of the Rockford Police Department and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court in Rockford by Assistant United States Attorney SCOTT A. VERSEMAN.

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