



---

CONTACT NUMBER: 815-987-4444

May 5, 2004

## **TWO ROCKFORD MEN INDICTED ON FEDERAL GUN AND DRUG CHARGES**

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, Firearms, & Explosives; LARRY G. TRENT, Director of the Illinois State Police; PAUL A. LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; STEVEN PUGH, Chief of the Rockford Police Department; and PATRICK CARRIGAN, Chief of the Loves Park Police Department, today made the following announcement:

A federal grand jury in Rockford has indicted two Rockford men in separate indictments on federal gun and drug charges.

**ROBERT A. HAWKINS**, 47 (DOB: 02/20/57 ), formerly of 5915 Parkside, Loves Park, Illinois, was charged with one count of armed robbery in interference with interstate commerce, one count of using a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence, and one count of possessing a firearm as a convicted felon and an armed career criminal. According to the indictment, Hawkins robbed a Machesney Park gas station on March 15, 2004, and was arrested shortly thereafter. Hawkins has been in state custody since his arrest.

First charged by the Winnebago County States Attorney's Office under state law, Hawkins was transferred to federal court where he was charged under tough federal firearms laws as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an intensive, cooperative effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement to attack gun crimes. The cornerstone of the program is that every state defendant with a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to target the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at [www.psn.gov](http://www.psn.gov).

If convicted of the charges, Hawkins would be sentenced as an "armed career criminal" under a federal firearm law mandating non-paroleable prison sentences of at least 15 years and up to life for felons with extensive records of prior criminal convictions who illegally possess guns. The case was investigated by the Winnebago County Sheriff's Police, the Loves Park Police Department, and the Rockford office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives.

**BRADLEY MAINES**, 24 (DOB: 06/19/79) of 920 9th Avenue, Rockford, Illinois, was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm, and one count of distribution of cocaine.

If convicted of the crimes charged in the indictment, Maines faces up to 30 years in prison without parole, a period of supervised release of three years to life following his release from prison, a fine of up to \$1,250,000 and any restitution ordered by the court. The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives, and the Metro Narcotics Task Force.

If convicted, the actual sentence of each defendant will be determined by a United States District Court Judge, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Both cases are being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving each defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

#####