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December 19, 2012

**ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS IN PRISON  
FOR POSSESSING A FIREARM AS A CONVICTED FELON**

ROCKFORD – A Rockford, Ill. man was sentenced today in federal court before U.S. District Judge Philip G. Reinhard to 7 years in federal prison without parole for illegally possessing a firearm as a convicted felon. **David Powell**, also known as “Dawud Akeem Powell,” 21, pleaded guilty to the charge on Sept. 13, 2012. Powell was also ordered to serve 3 years of supervised release following his release from prison.

According to the plea agreement, defendant was arrested on February 14, 2012, by Rockford Police officers. When he was arrested, Powell had in his possession a Sig Sauer Model P522 .22 caliber pistol. Prior to his arrest on February 14th, Powell had previously been convicted of felonies, including a July 1, 2010, conviction for aggravated burglary, in Davidson County, Tennessee.

Powell was originally charged in state court and 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 defendant committing an offense involving a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to obtain the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at [www.psn.gov](http://www.psn.gov).

The sentencing was announced by Gary S. Shapiro, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; W. Larry Ford, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Field Division

of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives; Joseph Bruscato, Winnebago County State's Attorney; and Chet Epperson, Chief of the Rockford Police Department.

The government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott A. Verseman.

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