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CHICAGO MAN SENTENCED TO 51 MONTHS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Carlos G. Lewis, 20, Chicago, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 51 months in prison, without the possibility of parole, for unlawfully possessing a loaded, stolen firearm as a convicted felon, on August 25, 2009. Lewis was convicted of this charge following a one-day jury trial on January 10, 2010.

The evidence at trial established that on the morning of August 25, 2009, Lewis called a local cab company to pick him up in the Allied Drive neighborhood. Lewis wanted to get to the Greyhound bus station by 11:00 a.m., but the cab driver told him they weren't going to make it on time. Lewis became angry with the cab driver and said, "I've got something for you."

Feeling threatened, the cab driver flagged down a nearby uniformed Madison Police Department sergeant. When the sergeant approached the cab, Lewis got out and started walking away. When the sergeant told Lewis he wanted to talk to him, Lewis took off running. The sergeant ran after Lewis.

The sergeant briefly lost sight of Lewis as he rounded a corner of a building. During that time, an employee of a local business was outside smoking a cigarette and he saw Lewis throw something on the roof of the building. The eyewitness employee told the police what he saw and directed them to the location on the roof, where police recovered a loaded .40 caliber Glock pistol.

Lewis continued to flee after throwing the gun on the roof, but additional citizen witnesses helped the police locate Lewis, who was lying on the ground hiding under thick bushes in a nearby neighborhood.

The charge against Lewis was the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison Police Department and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

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