



Department of Justice

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District of Massachusetts

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PAIR CHARGED WITH WEAPONS CHARGES

BOSTON, MA - Two Lawrence men were charged today in federal court with being previously convicted felons in possession of firearms.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan; Glenn N. Anderson, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in New England; Jonathan Blodgett, Essex County District Attorney; and John J. Romero, Chief of the Lawrence Police Department, announced today that **CESAR COLON**, 24, and **NEFTALI DONES**, 21, both of Lawrence, Massachusetts, were each charged with one-count of being previously convicted felons in possession of a firearm.

An indictment returned by a federal grand jury alleges that on or about January 11, 2007, **COLON** possessed a loaded Ruger .45 caliber pistol. An information also filed today, alleges that on the same date **DONES** possessed a Bryco 9mm pistol and four rounds of 9mm ammunition. It is further alleged that at the time they possessed the pistols, each had been previously convicted of a felony. Federal law prohibits individuals previously convicted of a felony from possessing firearms or ammunition.

COLON and **DONES** were initially arrested by the Lawrence Police Department on January 11, 2007. If convicted, **COLON** faces a mandatory minimum 15 year sentence for being an Armed Career Criminal and **DONES** faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. Both defendants also face three year terms of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine. Additionally, government is seeking the forfeiture of both pistols and ammunition.

This case is being prosecuted as part of President Bush's Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative which makes prosecution of firearms cases a top priority. The Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative provides a comprehensive, strategic approach to reducing gun violence in America. Since 2002, when the U.S. Attorney's Office implemented the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, eleven cities across the state, including Lawrence, have joined in the program. The case was referred for prosecution by the Essex County District Attorney's Office.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, with the assistance of the Lawrence Police Department's Emergency Response Team. It is being prosecuted by an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Sullivan's Criminal Division.

The details contained in the Indictment and Information are allegations. A defendants are presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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