



# U.S. Department of Justice

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**BURLINGTON, VERMONT August 13, 2007**

**BURLINGTON MAN CONVICTED IN GUN CASE**

The Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Vermont stated today that Shaun Shea, 28, of Burlington, appeared today in the United States District Court in Brattleboro, Vermont and pled guilty to a charge of possession of a Remington rifle having been previously convicted of a felony offense of assault and robbery.

In 1996 Shaun Shea was convicted of the felony offense of Assault and Robbery in the Chittenden District Court. Under the federal Gun Control Act, it is unlawful for a previously convicted felon to possess a firearm. On December 12, 2006, while on routine patrol, a Burlington police officer observed Shea walking on Intervale Avenue attempting to conceal what appeared to the officer to be a rifle. The officer approached Shea, and ascertained that Shea was carrying a stolen Remington Model 700 .7mm rifle. Upon questioning, Shea admitted that he was a convicted felon and that he was also facing a felony charge of Burglary in the Chittenden District Court. The Burlington police officer seized the firearm and referred the matter to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. On March 22, 2006, Shea was indicted by the federal grand jury and charged with possession of that firearm as a previously convicted felon, possession of a stolen firearm, and possession of the firearm while facing a felony indictment for attempted burglary. Today in federal Court, Shea appeared before United States District Judge J. Garvan Murtha and pled guilty to the charge of being a previously convicted felon in possession of the firearm. Judge Murtha accepted Shea's plea of guilty and scheduled sentencing to occur on November 19, 2007. Shea faces a possible term of imprisonment of up to 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. The actual sentence will be determined in accordance with the federal Sentencing Guidelines.

United States Attorney Thomas D. Anderson commended the swift and alert investigation by the Burlington Police Department in this matter.

Shea was returned to the custody of the United States Marshal pending a November 19<sup>th</sup> sentencing. Shea was represented in court today by Assistant Federal Public Defender Elizabeth D. Mann. Assistant United States Attorney John M. Conroy is the prosecutor in the case.

U.S. Attorney Anderson noted that this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhood, a nationwide commitment to reduce gun crime in America. Led by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Project Safe Neighborhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who violate federal gun laws. For more information about Project Safe Neighborhood and Project Safe Vermont, please visit: [www.psn.gov](http://www.psn.gov)