

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

District of Connecticut

Connecticut Financial Center

157 Church Street

P.O. Box 1824

New Haven, Connecticut 06510

www.usdoj.gov/usao/ct <<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ct>>

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CONTACT:

Tom Carson

Public Information Office

(203) 821-3722

(203) 996-1393 (cell)

Project Safe Neighborhoods:

NEW HAVEN MAN INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL GUN POSSESSION

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that a federal grand jury sitting in New Haven today returned a two-count Indictment charging MAURICE YOUMANS, age 27, formerly of 36 Oak Ridge Drive, New Haven, Connecticut, with possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition by a previously convicted felon.

The Indictment alleges that on January 9, 2005, YOUMANS was found to be in possession of a nine-millimeter handgun and a box of Winchester nine-millimeter ammunition. According to the Indictment, prior to January 9, 2005, YOUMANS had been convicted of felony offenses, including carrying a dangerous weapon, larceny in the third degree, and sale of narcotics. It is a violation of federal law for a person previously convicted of a felony offense to possess a firearm or ammunition that has moved in interstate or foreign commerce.

If convicted, YOUMANS faces a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years and a maximum fine of \$250,000 on each count.

U.S. Attorney O'Connor stressed that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which it is the Government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This matter was investigated by the New Haven Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John A. Marrella.

The Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is aimed at reducing gun violence, deterring illegal possession of guns, and improving the safety of residents in New Haven and other Connecticut cities. Participants in the initiative include community members and organizations as well as federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. More information on the nationwide Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative can be found at www.psn.gov <<http://www.psn.gov>>.

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