



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2006
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby
(404) 581-6016
FAX: (404) 581-6160

FORMER CLAYTON COUNTY STUDENT SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON IN GUN CASE

ATLANTA - Marcellus Beavers, 19, of Hampton, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Marvin H. Shoob on a charge of Possession of Firearms and Ammunition in a School Zone.

"The presence of guns turns a school fight into a potential school shooting disaster. This case should send a strong message to the citizens of Clayton County and throughout Georgia that we will not tolerate anyone endangering the lives of our students by carrying guns to schools," said David E. Nahmias, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia.

"After the tragic loss of Krystal Williams, ATF made a commitment to the Clayton County community, County Chairman Bell, Police Chief Partain and Assistant Chief Turner that ATF would work side by side with the Clayton County Gang Task Force to address teenage gun and gang violence in Clayton County. Within 19 days of Krystal's death, ATF and Clayton County Gang Task Force members responded to the call of Beaver's illegal possession of firearms on school grounds. Since the inception of the Task Force, Beavers was the first federal arrest and sentence and our commitment still stands," said Vanessa McLemore, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Beavers was sentenced to 2 years, 6 months in federal prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, and ordered to undergo a drug and alcohol treatment program. Beavers was convicted of these charges on December 20, 2005.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: On May 11, 2005, Clayton County Police Officers noticed some students fighting in the school parking lot as they drove past North Clayton High School. Officers also observed the school staff attempting to break up the altercation which began when Beavers, a former student, and several juveniles carried a sawed-off shotgun, a .32 caliber pistol, and 30 rounds of ammunition to the school. During the altercation, one of the juveniles actually pointed a firearm toward the crowd but dropped it and ran when he saw the officers. While securing the weapons, the officers discovered that the sawed-off shotgun was loaded with one round of ammunition. Upon arrest, Beavers stated that he kept the shotgun in his vehicle "just in case of a beef."

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and Clayton County Police Department

Assistant United States Attorney Sheila Arnum prosecuted the case.