



Fayette County Sheriff's Office

Wayne Hannah, Sheriff

June 14, 2011

Press Information

Sheriff's Investigators receive recognition by ATF for Autrey's Armory burglary investigation.

Fayette County Sheriff's Investigators were recognized today by the Atlanta Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) for the successful investigation and prosecution of the 2007 burglary and theft of firearms from Autrey's Armory in Fayette County.

Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Atlanta Field Division, Scott Sweetow, presented the recognition on behalf of Special Agent in Charge, Gregory Gant. Captain Mahlon Donald, Sergeant Keith Whiteside, Investigators Aaron Fenimore, Ethon Harper, Brian lee, Brent Rowan and Lead Investigator Joshua Shelton were recognized for their outstanding contribution to ATF's mission of protecting the public and reducing violent crime.

(See ATF release below)





U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

www.atf.gov

Sheriff Wayne Hannah
Fayette County Sheriff's Office
155 Johnson Avenue
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214

Dear Sheriff Hannah:

The Atlanta Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) sincerely acknowledges the contributions of the Fayette County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigation Division (CID) for the successful investigation and prosecution of the burglary and theft of firearms from a Federal Firearms Licensee, Autrey's Armory.

On December 05, 2007, eight members of the Southside Mafia street gang stole a pick-up truck in Clayton County, GA and utilized that truck to forcibly enter the business establishment of Autrey's Armory in Fayette County, GA. Subsequently, it was determined that eighty-five (85) firearms were stolen during this act. Upon the immediate response by your agency, ATF agents arrived on scene within the morning hours, and a very coordinated and detailed investigation began into the apprehension of those responsible for the theft. The thieves did not take the associated magazines along with the firearms, and from the very beginning, investigators and ATF agents utilized their resources and contacts to put out the word to other FFL's in the south metro area to "be on the lookout for persons purchasing magazines". Within hours, these leads proved to be fruitful.

In the end, and over the course of the next three and half years, a total of twelve defendants, to include all suspects that entered Autrey's Armory, and five additional suspects that conspired to distribute the stolen firearms, pleaded guilty to multiple offenses and were sentenced to a total of sixty-seven years incarceration with an additional thirty years of supervised release to be conducted by the United States Probation Office. Also, one juvenile suspect was arrested and convicted in Fayette County. Additionally, all suspects were ordered to pay total restitution in the amount of \$50,089.30.

The Fayette County Sheriff's Office CID received high praise from the ATF agents and the supervisor for their commitment and dedication during the first few tireless weeks to successfully coordinate, investigate and apprehend those responsible for this theft. Additionally, it is a testament to your office to selflessly work alongside our agents, to pool resources for the common good of the investigation, and to stick to the commitment of doing the small things as well, that led to the expedient solving of this crime.

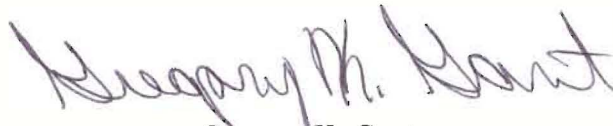
Sheriff Wayne Hammond
Fayette County Sheriff's Office

The outcome of this investigation demonstrates that cooperation among agencies, as the Clayton County and DeKalb County Police Departments were highly involved as well, will help to improve public safety as well as curb costs associated with crime that are absorbed by the general public.

Please convey my thanks and gratitude to Sergeant Keith Whiteside; Investigators Aaron Fenimore, Ethon Harper, Brian Lee, Brent Rowan, and Captain Mahlon Donald [SERFTF] for their outstanding contribution to ATF's mission of protecting the public and reducing violent crime. Special thanks should be expressed to Lead Investigator Joshua Shelton, who also tirelessly maintained his commitment through the Federal judicial process.

Thank you for the professionalism of the detectives, officers and supervisors of the Fayette County Sheriff's Office, and please accept my sincere gratitude for your support of this important investigative mission. I look forward to working with your department in the future. Please contact my office if I or my staff can be of service to you or your department.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gregory K. Gant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory K. Gant
Special Agent in Charge
Atlanta Field Division