



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MODESTO MAN SENTENCED TO NEARLY 9 YEARS IN PRISON FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING
AND FIREARM POSSESSION**

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that LUIS GOODEN, 29, of Modesto was sentenced today by United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger to 106 months in prison. GOODEN pleaded guilty on June 23, 2008 to carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking offense, possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office, and the Ceres Police Department.

The investigation in this case was undertaken as part of Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN), a nationwide commitment to reduce gun crime in America by networking existing local programs that target gun crime and providing these programs with additional tools necessary to be successful. To learn more, go to www.psn.gov.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kimberly A. Sanchez, who prosecuted the case, a Ceres police officer attempted to stop the vehicle that GOODEN was driving on

April 6, 2007. GOODEN then led police on a chase during which he went through two red lights and crashed into several cars. He then ran from police, throwing a bag, a loaded .22 caliber Double Nine handgun, cocaine and \$1,963 in cash.

“Armed drug dealers need to take notice of Mr. Gooden’s new place of residence for the next 106 months; federal prison,” said Acting Special Agent in Charge Michael P. Gleysteen.

GOODEN has a prior conviction punishable by more than a year in prison—a conviction for assault in the second degree in March 2000.

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