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Subject: U.S. ATTORNEY Press Release -- Man Who Possessed Stolen Gun and Participated in Catalytic Converter Theft Ring Sentenced to 37 Months in Federal Prison
Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 12:13:22 PM

U.S. Department of Justice

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District of Connecticut*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 12, 2023**

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Man Who Possessed Stolen Gun and Participated in Catalytic Converter Theft Ring Sentenced to 37 Months in Federal Prison

Vanessa Roberts Avery, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that THEODORE ROOSEVELT OWENS, 22, of Hartford, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Omar A. Williams in Hartford to 37 months of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release, for offenses related to his possession of a stolen firearm and his role in a catalytic converter theft ring.

According to court documents and statements made in court, on October 21, 2021, Vernon Police arrested Owens in a hotel parking lot on outstanding warrants. An investigation revealed that, shortly before his arrest, Owens possessed a loaded Zigana, Model PX-9 G2, 9mm pistol, which he had cause to believe was stolen, and approximately five grams of crack cocaine. The firearm was part of a shipment of 50 Zigana PX-9G2 pistols that was stolen from an R&L Carriers warehouse in South Windsor in August 2021.

The investigation further revealed that Owens had conspired with others in the theft and sale of catalytic converters. Between September 24 and October 17, 2021, Owens sold a co-conspirator \$26,320 worth of catalytic converters, including converters that Owens knew were stolen. Owens' co-conspirator transported the converters to other businesses, including businesses in New York and New Jersey, for further resale and profit.

Owens has been detained since his arrest. On February 9, 2023, he pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful possession of a stolen firearm and one count of conspiracy to commit interstate transportation of stolen property.

The firearm theft investigation is being conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), and the South Windsor Police Department and East Hartford Police Department. The catalytic converter investigation is being led by the ATF, the Internal

Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division (IRS-CI), and the East Hartford Police Department. These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Lauren C. Clark and A. Reed Durham.

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