



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY**
15 Commonwealth Avenue, Woburn, MA 01801

Gerry Leone
District Attorney

Tel: 781-897-8325

For Immediate Release
October 8, 2010

Contact: Jessica Venezia/Cara O'Brien
781-897-8325

D.A. Leone, Cambridge Police Commissioner Haas, Arlington Police Chief Ryan, Belmont Police Chief McLaughlin, & Cambridge District Court Announce Establishment Of New Gun Court
Program Initiated to Expedite Gun Cases

CAMBRIDGE— A new gun court has been established in Cambridge District Court, which serves the communities of Cambridge, Arlington and Belmont, Cambridge Police Commissioner Robert Haas, Belmont Police Chief Richard McLaughlin, Arlington Police Chief Frederick Ryan, Cambridge District Court Judge Roanne Sragow, and District Attorney Leone informed the public today.

The gun court, effective this month, aims to segregate all gun crime prosecutions in an effort to give these serious crimes their own designated session. The goal is to focus on cases which are of significant concern to the community, and ultimately reduce the amount of gun crime by efficiently moving these cases through the court system in holding those found guilty accountable more quickly. A designated Judge and ADA will be assigned to the gun session to ensure continuity and any case involving a firearm violation will be heard in the session. These cases will be transferred immediately after arraignment into the session and trials will be held on Mondays, while Fridays will be reserved for motions and other related pretrial matters.

“This is a collaborative venture aimed at ensuring that serious gun crime is targeted and moved through the court system in an efficient, timely, and effective matter in order to ultimately hold those responsible for gun crimes accountable more quickly,” District Attorney Leone said.

“I am proud that the Cambridge Police Department is able to join the courts, the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office, and other area departments in this collaborative initiative to ensure that gun crimes receive the timely and serious scrutiny that they deserve in order to keep our streets safe for all who live in and visit our cities,” Cambridge Police Commissioner Robert Haas said.

“This partnership is a giant step forward in terms of breaking down jurisdictional and procedural barriers that inhibit municipal law enforcement from preventing violent crime in their communities,” Arlington Police Chief Frederick Ryan added.

The program is modeled after gun courts that exist in other urban areas where there is a significant amount of gun crime or heightened concern for how gun activity is affecting the community. The program was established in an effort to address and reduce gun crime in and around the city of Cambridge, Belmont, and Arlington.

###