

March 12, 2020

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: COOK COUNTY MAN INDICTED ON CHARGES OF ARMED VIOLENCE,
UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced charges against a Cook County man for unlawfully possessing several firearms, following a joint investigation with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Chicago Police Department.

John E. Deir, 45, of Burbank, Ill., was charged in Cook County Circuit Court with eight counts of armed violence, a Class X felony punishable by 15 to 30 years in prison, and eight counts of unlawful possession of a firearm while being ineligible for a Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) card, a Class 3 felony punishable by two to five years in prison. Bond was set at \$50,000, and he remains in custody. His next court date will be March 18.

“Partnerships between law enforcement and state and federal government are critical in order to reduce gun violence in communities throughout Illinois,” Raoul said. “My office will continue to collaborate with agencies such as the ATF as we work to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals who make our communities unsafe.”

ATF agents executing an arrest warrant for an unrelated federal case at Deir’s home were told that there were between five and 10 firearms in the residence. After finding cocaine residue in a bathroom, agents obtained a search warrant and confiscated eight firearms, including handguns, a shotgun and a rifle, as well as numerous rounds of ammunition. The Illinois FOID Card Act prohibits Deir from possessing any firearms due to a prior felony disposition for armed robbery. In addition to recovering firearms, ATF agents also located \$25,000 in cash at the home.

“Positive working relationships among law enforcement are crucial in the apprehension of felony offenders,” said Acting Special Agent in Charge Beau Kolodka, of the Chicago Field Division of the ATF. “The effective partnership among the ATF, the Chicago Police Department and the Illinois Attorney General’s Office was vital in identifying an offender, conducting a thorough investigation and completing our mission to protect the public.”

“Gun offenders need to be held accountable,” said Chicago Police Interim Superintendent Charlie Beck. “Protecting the public is paramount. We are all in this together: law enforcement, prosecutors, and the community. If you are a felon and you are in possession of an illegal firearm, you should expect to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

The public is reminded that the defendant is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Assistant Attorney General Andrew Whitfield is handling prosecution of the case for Raoul’s Statewide Grand Jury Program.