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Gun Barn owners have April court date

by Brooke Meier

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The owners of the Gun Barn have been arraigned and will stand trial in early April on charges that they imported/manufactured firearms illegally at their businesses in Highland Township and Genesee County.

Gabriel Kish III and Deborah Summers were arrested in August after federal search warrants led to the search and seizure of over 600 firearms at the Highland Township location alone.

The searches were conducted by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Flint Field Office, the Michigan State Police and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

ATF Resident Agent in Charge Robin Shoemaker said the warrants were the result of a year-long undercover investigation of the Gun Barn.

Both Kish and Summers were leased after the searches and initial charges were dropped so the ATF could build a case.

According to court documents, Kish and Summers were indicted on Sept. 17, 2008 and arraigned before a federal judge on Nov. 21, 2008.

Both were released on \$10,000 unsecured bonds and ordered not to travel outside the U.S. District Court's Eastern District for Michigan and to reside at the address they provided to their pre-trial officer.

The bond also allowed Kish and Summers to sell their existing inventory of ammunition; however, they had to provide an inventory of ammunition within 14 days of being released. The inventory had to include the manufacturer, caliber and quantity of ammunition.

The indictment states, "From about Feb. 8, 2005 until about Aug. 14, 2008 at 2525 Highland Road, Highland, Oakland County, Michigan; 12163 State Road, Otisville, Genesee County, Michigan; and elsewhere in the Eastern District of Michigan, Gabriel Kish III and Deborah Summers willfully engaged, and aided and abetted each other willfully to engage in the business of dealing in firearms without being licensed to do so."

Court documents state a final pre-trial and negotiated guilty plea cutoff will be on March 10 at 2 p.m. A trial is scheduled to begin on April 8 at 9 a.m. before U.S. District Court Judge Robert Cleland.

If convicted, both Summers and Kish face a maximum of five years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000.