

Boca Raton, FL Weather



75°F, Partly Cloudy

A shot of justice

Man sentenced a year after shooting incident on Boca campus

By Sloane Davis

Staff Reporter

Published: Monday, April 13, 2009

Updated: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 15:04

Eleven months after pulling a gun and firing three shots inside an FAU student apartment, Omar Everton Graham Jr. has been sentenced to 90 days in jail.

On April 30, 2008, Graham, who was a student at Johnson & Wales University in Miami, was attending a party at a Boca campus apartment. According to police reports, he and Rhyan Walcott, a Brevard Community College student, got into a heated argument over a red hat.

At 1 a.m., 23-year-old Graham pulled out a Smith & Wesson handgun and fired it three times in the apartment: twice into a wall and once into a couch.

Graham left the scene, and FAU's Boca campus was put on lockdown until around 12:30 p.m. the next day. The lockdown was lifted when Graham was arrested in North Miami on the campus of Johnson & Wales University.

Initially, Graham faced up to 15 years in prison for attempted murder but had his charges reduced in Feb. 2009 to the lesser crimes of shooting into a building and violating a concealed weapons permit.

"Graham decided to plead guilty to shooting into a building as well as the concealing of firearms," explains Assistant State Attorney Timothy Beckwith. "He has received a withhold of adjudication, which means he will not have to go to trial. His sentence is fairly standard to his situation."



Photo by Richard Graulich, Palm Beach Post

Omar Everton Graham Jr. was sentenced to 90 days in jail on March 27 for last spring's incident at the Boca campus apartments.

Graham was sentenced on March 27, 2009, and in addition to the 90-day sentence, he faces five years of probation and a fine of \$13,000 to be paid in restitution to FAU.

According to Beckwith, the amount was decided by FAU and will cover the police costs associated with the case, as well as the disruption and damages to the FAU apartments.

"Every case is truly different," says Beckwith. "We have to look at several factors, including whether or not there is a prior record, what the actual charges are and what the witnesses have to say in their testimonies."

"[Graham] is a good kid, and he's looking forward to finishing college and obtaining his degree, and this plea keeps him from being a convicted felon," says Graham's attorney, Richard Tendler. "He was treated fairly by the state and by FAU administrators."

Graham will begin his sentence on May 1 and is expected to be released on July 29.