

man gets 3 years in shootout Spotsy man convicted of malicious wounding in argument at city apartment complex

BY KEITH EPPS

Oct 13, 2007

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A Spotsylvania man has been sentenced to three years in prison for his role in a shootout at a Fredericksburg apartment complex last year.

Amar L. Acevedo, 32, was convicted of malicious wounding yesterday in Fredericksburg Circuit Court.

Acevedo said yesterday that he is innocent but believed it was in his best legal interests to enter an Alford plea to the single charge. In exchange for the plea, prosecutor Travis Bird dropped 14 related charges.

According to the evidence, Acevedo shot Ricky Edmonds during an exchange of gunfire at the Heritage Park apartment complex on June 20, 2006. Edmonds still has charges pending in the case.

Witnesses told police that two other men were having an argument about money when Acevedo and Edmonds began exchanging words and bullets.

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Numerous shots were fired, but the combatants were long gone by the time police arrived.

The back windshield of one car was shot out, and the right front headlight of another vehicle was shot. A stray round entered an apartment, but no one inside was hit.

Edmonds was shot in the leg and treated at a hospital in North Carolina.

Bird said he agreed to the settlement because he felt it was best for everyone. He said the witnesses he had were reluctant to testify.

Acevedo was sentenced to two years in prison earlier this year in Spotsylvania as the result of a search of his residence stemming from the Fredericksburg shooting.

A fully loaded Tech-9 submachine gun was found beside his bed and a loaded .45-caliber Ruger semiautomatic pistol was under his pillow. Acevedo is a felon and is not legally allowed to have guns.

He was represented yesterday by attorney Stacy Garcia.

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