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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**INDIANAPOLIS MAN SENTENCED FOR STRING OF
ROBBERIES**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that JEROME WEATHINGTON, 21, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 22 years imprisonment by U.S. District Judge David F. Hamilton following his guilty plea to Hobbs Act robberies (robbery affecting interstate commerce), and use of a firearm in connection with a violent crime. This case was the result of a investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

From October 16, 2005, through November 20, 2005, JEROME WEATHINGTON robbed five fast food restaurants in Indianapolis. WEATHINGTON would run into the restaurants while they were open, wearing a mask and brandishing a gun, and jump over the service counter. He would typically grab money from the cash drawers, or actually take the drawers themselves out of the registers. He would then flee to a getaway vehicle waiting a few

blocks away. He obtained \$5,434 in the robberies. WEATHINGTON was apprehended when a witness at the last robbery on November 20, 2005, followed him to the getaway vehicle, then provided a description of the vehicle to law enforcement. He was caught a short time later in the vehicle, where the money, clothing and gun used in the robbery were found. Shana Schulze, the getaway driver in three of the robberies, and Orlando Martin, who participated in three of the robberies, have also been charged for their roles. Martin was sentenced to 149 months (12.4 years) imprisonment, and Schulze's case is pending.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Winfield D. Ong, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Hamilton also imposed 3 years supervised release following WEATHINGTON's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, WEATHINGTON must undergo drug testing. WEATHINGTON was fined in the amount of \$1,000.

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