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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**ARMED ROBBER RECEIVES 29 YEAR FEDERAL SENTENCE
AS ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that MELVIN SPELLS, 22, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 346 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker following his conviction at trial September 26, 2006, for armed robbery, using a gun during a violent crime, and felon in possession of a gun. This case was the result of a an investigation by the Marion County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives.

On June 13, 2005, SPELLS entered the Papa John's Pizza Store located at 5500 Emerson Way, Indianapolis, Indiana, and demanded all the money at gunpoint. After fleeing the store, SPELLS lead the Marion County Sheriff's Department on a brief chase. SPELLS was apprehended with the help of a canine unit in a residential backyard three blocks from Papa

John's. He was arrested and searched by the Marion County Sheriff's Department, and the exact amount of money that was taken from Papa John's was located in SPELL's shoe.

During the sentencing hearing, Judge Barker stressed to SPELLS that he was not entitled to rob someone else's peace. Barker went on to state that SPELLS has refused to change his destructive behavior and that the Court must protect society from MELVIN SPELLS.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Doris L. Pryor, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed 5 years supervised release following SPELLS's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, SPELLS must undergo drug-testing.

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