



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland
Northern Division*

*Allen F. Loucks
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse
101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800
TTY/TDD:410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA
(410) 209-4885**

FIVE INDICTED IN CHARLES COUNTY SUBDIVISION ARSON

Greenbelt, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announced that today the following defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of arson, conspiracy to commit arson, and aiding and abetting, in connection with the December 6, 2004 fires at the Hunter's Brooke development located in Charles County, Maryland:

Patrick Steven Walsh, age 20, of Ft. Washington, Maryland;
Aaron Lee Speed, age 21, of Waldorf, Maryland;
Michael McIntosh Everhart, age 20, of Waldorf, Maryland;
Jeremy Daniel Parady, age 20, of Accokeek, Maryland; and
Roy T. McCann, age 22, of Marbury, Maryland.

The five count indictment alleges that from about August 1, 2004 to December 6, 2004, the defendants conspired with each other, and with other persons known and unknown to the grand jury, to maliciously damage and attempt to damage, by means of fire, residential dwellings under construction located in the Hunter's Brooke development, Indian Head, Charles County, Maryland. The indictment also alleges that the defendants did maliciously damage and attempt to damage, by means of fire, residential dwellings under construction located in the Hunter's Brooke development.

The maximum penalty for arson and for conspiracy to commit arson is a mandatory

minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 20 years in prison followed by up to three years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The investigation continues. The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of an investigation coordinated by a task force which includes the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal and the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Donna Sanger and Timothy B. Atkins.