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BALTIMORE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTED CARJACKING

Baltimore, Maryland – United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announced today that Norman Johnson, age 46, of Baltimore, Maryland, pleaded guilty to attempted carjacking.

According to a statement of facts presented to the court at today's hearing, on February 23, 2004, at approximately 10:20 PM, a student attending night school at the University of Maryland at Baltimore (UMAB) Law School, walked from the UMAB campus to her vehicle which was parked in the 500 block of West Lexington Street, Baltimore, Maryland. The student approached her vehicle and opened the driver's side door. While standing in the open door space and attempting to place her book bag in the rear seat, the student was grabbed from behind by Johnson who directed the student to "Get in the car and give me your keys." A brief struggle ensued and the student was able to scream for help, free herself from Johnson's grasp, and run away. Johnson took the student's cellular telephone, purse, and book bag. The student fled a short distance and located a uniformed officer of the University of Maryland Police Department (UMPD). The officer had observed the assault, heard the student scream for help, and was responding to the scene. The responding officer saw Johnson flee the area on foot, heading northbound on North Paca Street, Baltimore, Maryland. While fleeing the area, Johnson was seen to discard a large bag in the 200 block of North Paca Street. A description of Johnson was broadcast via police radio. Other UMPD officers responded and moments later Johnson was apprehended, still in the 200 block of North Paca Street, and was found to still be in possession of the student's purse and cellular telephone. The large bag which Johnson was seen to discard was recovered and determined to be the student's book bag.

U.S. District Judge Richard D. Bennett scheduled sentencing for November 10, 2005 at 9:30 a.m.

U.S. Attorney Rosenstein praised the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the University of Maryland Police Department for their investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrew G.W. Norman and Jonathan M. Mastrangelo who are prosecuting this case.

