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**MEMBER OF LEXINGTON TERRACE BOYS SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR
DRUG TRAFFICKING AND FIREARM POSSESSION**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today U.S. District Court Judge Catherine C. Blake sentenced Karmaan Hawkins, age 27, of Baltimore, Maryland to 15 years followed by 4 years of supervised release in connection with Hawkins' guilty plea to possession with intent to distribute cocaine base and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

According to the statement of facts presented to the court as part of the plea agreement, on January 21, 2001 a search warrant was executed at Hawkins' residence. Cocaine base, commonly known as crack, and two Smith & Wesson revolvers were found. Hawkins admitted that the drugs and guns were his. The firearms were for protection of the drugs and the ongoing drug distribution operation.

The defendant was charged in the summer of 2003 as part of an ongoing investigation into a violent drug conspiracy in the Lexington Terrace neighborhood in West Baltimore. The extensive investigation into the drug trafficking and associated violence in and around that neighborhood

resulted in testimony from cooperating coconspirators and numerous other witnesses. Law enforcement established that some Lexington Terrace gang members engaged in a wide variety of criminal offenses to protect its territory and its members, including narcotics trafficking, murders and attempted murders, witness tampering, arson, and armed robbery.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Baltimore City Police Department homicide detectives, the Housing Authority Police Force, and the Baltimore County Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Andrea L. Smith and Kwame J. Manley.