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**FIVE MEMBERS OF VIOLENT DRUG GROUP SENTENCED  
FOR DRUG CONSPIRACY AND FIREARMS CHARGES**

**Baltimore, Maryland** - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announces that U.S. District Court Judge J. Frederick Motz sentenced five members of a violent drug group in Baltimore pursuant to the terms of the guilty pleas they entered on February 7, 2005 to various federal charges arising from their participation in a drug trafficking conspiracy and a series of related shootings and murders. The terms of the plea agreements provided for the defendants, all of Baltimore, to receive the following sentences:

Shawn Henry, age 28, 30 years in prison. (Henry received 45 months credit for time served on a state sentence arising from a prior state conviction for one of the underlying crimes charged in the federal conspiracy indictment);

London King, age 24, 25 years in prison;

Tyrell Fields, age 34, 25 years in prison;

Ryan Ayers, age 24, 25 years in prison; and

Dante Faulker, age 25, 40 years in prison. (Faulker received 44 months credit for time served on a state sentence arising from a prior state conviction for one of the underlying crimes in the federal conspiracy indictment).

All of the sentences are followed by five years of supervised release.

United States Attorney Allen Loucks stated that "These sentences guarantee that these five

defendants will serve the next several decades in federal prisons far from Baltimore, and from each other, removed from the east side community they ravaged with drug trafficking and violence for years.”

The 29 count indictment charged that from 1996 through June 2004 the defendants operated or worked for a drug distribution network referred to as the North Avenue Boys that sold large quantities of heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine in the 2000 block of E. North Avenue and the 1800 block of N. Chester and Castle Streets in east Baltimore. The indictment further alleged that between November 2000 through May 28, 2001, the defendants committed acts of violence against members of a rival neighborhood drug trafficking group known as the Project Boys. That feud ultimately resulted in the murder of a North Avenue Boys gang member, Keith Hamlet, on November 11, 2001 and the girlfriend of another on Memorial Day 2001. The feud also resulted in the murder of a Project Boys drug worker on January 5, 2001 and two persons mistakenly believed to be members of the Project Boys group on February 18, 2001. The feud also involved several other non-fatal shootings that occurred between November 8, 2000 and May 2001 when members of the rival groups encountered each other.

Ayres, King and Fields pled guilty to a non-fatal shooting of two rival drug group members on November 9, 2000. Henry pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute quantities of cocaine, heroin and crack. Faulkner also pled guilty to the drug conspiracy count, and to possession of a firearm on July 20, 2001 in relation to that conspiracy.

In addition to the sentences of these North Avenue Boy members, to date, four other North Avenue Boys and 13 members of the Project Boys have been convicted on federal drug conspiracy or related firearm charges in separate federal prosecutions by the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Several

others defendants from these two groups have entered guilty pleas in state court in prosecutions coordinated with federal prosecutors.

Two remaining defendants, Charles Laster, a/k/a Poppy age 24, and Corey Grant, a/k/a Gutter, age 26, both of Baltimore, remain at large.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Baltimore City Police Department, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys John F. Purcell and Jonathan M. Mastrangelo.