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**PASADENA MAN SENTENCED FOR DRUG CONSPIRACY**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today U.S. District Court Judge Andre M. Davis sentenced Jarron Pailen, age 26, of Pasadena, Maryland to 120 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release in connection with his guilty plea to conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine base.

According to the agreed statement of facts presented to the court, Drug Enforcement Administration agents received information that a room at one of two Annapolis hotels was being used to convert cocaine powder to cocaine base, or crack cocaine. On May 19, 2003 DEA agents observed Pailen and a co-defendant enter the Mainstay Suites. Shortly thereafter, Pailen exited the hotel carrying a brown paper bag. Pailen got into a Toyota truck driven by another man, which then drove away. The agents contacted an Anne Arundel County police officer who stopped the truck. A second police officer arrived and explained the purpose of the stop. Pailen responded by telling the officer that the "coke" inside the car belonged to him. The officers searched the truck and recovered 125 grams of a hard white substance which later tested positive for cocaine base. Pailen further stated to the officers that he received the drugs from the co-defendant and that he had been purchasing cocaine base from the co-defendant on a regular basis since about November 2002

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Anne Arundel County Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jonathan M. Mastrangelo.