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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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THIRD BALTIMORE CO-DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR DRUGS AND GUNS

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announces that today U.S. District Court Judge Richard D. Bennett sentenced Dwayne Santos, age 26, of Baltimore, Maryland to 168 months in prison followed by 5 years of supervised release in connection with his guilty plea to possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Judge Bennett previously sentenced co-defendants Keith Solomon, age 29, and Maurice Solomon, age 24, both of Baltimore, Maryland, to 235 months and 123 months in prison, respectively, in connection with their guilty pleas to conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base and quantities of cocaine.

According to the agreed statements of facts presented to the court, the defendants engaged in a series of drug transactions between January of 2003 to January of 2004 around the Somerset Housing Project in East Baltimore. The defendants were arrested and police seized firearms and ammunition. This case is an example of the federal commitment to investigate and prosecute drug and gun offenses in Baltimore City.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John F. Purcell.