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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TWO ADDITIONAL DEFENDANTS INDICTED
ON FEDERAL ARSON CHARGES AND WITNESS TAMPERING**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announces that today a federal grand jury indicted two additional defendants, Terrence Smith, age 24, and Shakia Watkins, age 19, both of Baltimore, on charges set forth in the original indictment, which are witness tampering, conspiracy to commit witness tampering, use of firearms in a crime of violence, use of fire and explosives in a felony and making firearms, in connection with the January 15, 2005 arson of a residence located in Baltimore, Maryland.

The six count superseding indictment further alleges that the seven defendants caused a call to be placed on January 15, 2005 to a Baltimore City "911" operator to report a fictitious crime in order to direct police away from the area of the fire bombing.

Watkins faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison under count 1 and Smith faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of an investigation coordinated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Baltimore City Fire Department, Baltimore City Police Department, and the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys A. David Copperthite and Kwame J. Manley.