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**JUNE 15, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DEANDRE WHITEHEAD SENTENCED TO 70 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR
SOLICITATION TO COMMIT WITNESS TAMPERING**

Baltimore, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announces that today Deandre Whitehead, age 20, of Baltimore, Maryland was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Catherine C. Blake to 70 months in prison followed by 3 years supervised release for solicitation to commit witness tampering.

According to the agreed statement of facts presented to the court at his guilty plea on April 14, 2005, on August 16, 2003 Whitehead was arrested and charged with the August 10, 2003 murder of Russell Peterson in Baltimore, Maryland. Subsequently, Whitehead was housed in the Baltimore City Detention Center. Sometime after August 29, 2003 Whitehead approached Byron James, another inmate in the jail, and solicited him to kill two witnesses to the Peterson murder. On September 9, 2003 the Maryland State Police placed a recording device in the bullpen area of the Baltimore City Detention Center. Correctional officers observed Whitehead providing James with a note containing a physical description of one of the witnesses, and the phone number, address and name of Whitehead's girlfriend who was to provide an unspecified amount of money to James on

behalf of Whitehead as payment for his services.

On September 16 and 23, 2003 the Maryland State Police caused an undercover officer to be introduced to Whitehead's girlfriend. During both of these meetings Whitehead's girlfriend indicated that she had been in contact with Whitehead about the witnesses, but had no money to give to the undercover officer. Further attempts to contact Whitehead's girlfriend were not successful.

This case is the result of a joint investigation by the Baltimore City Police Department, the Maryland State Police, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney's Debra L. Dwyer and Christine Manuelian.