

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND



VIOLENT CRIME PROGRAM 2006 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY May 2007

I am pleased to present this 2006 Annual Report of the work that the United States Attorney's Office is doing, along with our local, state, and federal partners, to reduce violent crime in Maryland.

We are proud to work cooperatively with state prosecutors and support the efforts of police officers and federal law enforcement agents who risk their lives every day to pursue violent criminals and keep Maryland's neighborhoods safe. Our work includes prosecuting dangerous drug dealers; taking on the deadly international gang MS-13; implementing a novel program to help state prosecutors resolving pending gun cases; diverting armed criminals to federal court where they will face stiffer sentences without parole; establishing a proactive violent repeat offender program to target Maryland's most dangerous criminals; participating in call-ins to warn ex-convicts about what will happen to them if they are caught with drugs or guns; helping to train police officers; and working to spread a deterrent message throughout our communities.

This annual report includes:

- ✓ summaries of significant federal violent crime prosecutions;
- ✓ statistics reflecting the office's violent crime cases;
- ✓ explanations of other work that we do to deter violent crime; and
- ✓ descriptions of the strategies that we will pursue in 2007.

Maryland EXILE, a comprehensive program to reduce gun violence, went into effect in Baltimore City and Prince George's County in 2006, with a specific written strategy for each locality. (www.usdoj.gov/usao/md) A similar program is in effect in Wicomico County. (www.wicomicoexile.com) In other Maryland counties with less gun crime, federal authorities provide assistance to local prosecutors and police when it is required in particular cases.

Maryland EXILE is about deterring crime, not just prosecuting criminals. Drawing on the principles of the nationwide Project Safe Neighborhoods program (www.psn.gov), EXILE involves strong partnerships, effective strategic planning, regular training, community outreach, and accountability. The EXILE partners are pursuing traditional law enforcement strategies along with innovative approaches that are tailored to the challenges of reducing gun crime in Maryland. Maryland EXILE combines law enforcement efforts, community action and revitalization, and public awareness. The success of the strategy depends on a partnership among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and on the dedication and determination of community activists, educators, and civic and religious leaders.

The fundamental principle of EXILE is to achieve the goal and communicate the message that *any felon who carries a gun in Maryland will go to jail*. Honest and law-abiding citizens want safe neighborhoods for themselves and their children, so we must ensure that criminals serve *hard time for gun crime*. We must empower law-abiding citizens who want to rid their neighborhoods of criminals who spread violence and despair.

Maryland EXILE incorporates all of our efforts in a coordinated program that addresses prosecution, prevention, revitalization and education. Our strategy treats the criminal justice process as a continuum rather than a series of discrete steps. Participants take leading roles at different stages: police conduct investigations and make arrests; witnesses cooperate with authorities; prosecutors evaluate evidence and present it in court; juries weigh the evidence and reach verdicts; judges impose sentences; probation and parole officers monitor felons after they are released from prison. But the best way to reduce violent crime is to employ an overarching strategy that includes all participants in the criminal justice system, along with educators, community organizers and leaders of faith-based institutions who can help spread the word and counsel people who otherwise might be tempted to commit crimes.

Making sure that today's criminals serve hard time in jail is only one part of the program. The larger objective is to deter crime so that fewer criminals carry guns tomorrow. In order to deter future crimes, we must focus on the message that we send to potential criminals. Unfortunately, all too often we find that federal defendants were unaware of the likely punishment before they committed their gun crimes. Advertising and community outreach therefore are part of our strategy.

We hope that armed criminals get the message of Maryland EXILE so that we don't need to send them to prison. With the help of government and private sector partners, however, we hope also to reach a more important audience: the boys and girls who are at risk of following in the footsteps of today's criminals if we fail to change the culture of violence. We owe it to them to alter the incentives that lead some people to choose a life of crime.

Our goal is to have less business. And no repeat customers.

The U.S. Attorney's Office's Violent Crime Section, created in January 2006, has joined with our state and local partners to implement Maryland EXILE; pursue our federal anti-gang strategy; and work with our Narcotics Section to dismantle drug-dealing organizations.

I am grateful to the dedicated and professional staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office for their work to reduce violent crime in Maryland, and to our federal, state and local partners for the challenging work that they do every day to make Maryland more safe and secure.

Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney

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VIOLENT CRIME CASE SUMMARIES

The following is a brief summary of the indictments, convictions, and sentences obtained in some of the most significant violent crime cases prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2006. The achievements described in the following pages are the direct result of our ongoing partnership with our colleagues in local, state, and federal law enforcement. These cases exemplify their tireless dedication to ridding our communities of violent criminals and gangs. An indictment is not a finding of guilt; an individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at a later criminal proceeding.

GANGS/VIOLENT DRUG ORGANIZATIONS

Dismantling violent gangs and drug crews has been and continues to be one of the primary missions of the U.S. Attorney's Office. Working with our local, state, and federal partners – including the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, the Baltimore Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – we are aggressively investigating and prosecuting violent organizations and other cases involving acts of violence by gang members. Our goal is to identify and prosecute not only those gang members who actually commit acts of violence, but also those who order that the acts of violence be committed, those who assist in the commission of the acts of violence, those who assist in covering up the acts of violence, and those who recruit new members to join the gangs. As these cases illustrate, we have used, and will continue to use, every weapon in the federal law enforcement arsenal – including the RICO statute and the federal conspiracy laws – to take down gangs, from the lowest-level members to the highest-ranking leaders.

U.S. v. ERIC BARNETT

On January 4, 2004, during a search at an address in Edgewater, Maryland, Maryland State Police Troopers recovered a Glock .40 caliber handgun, one of a pair of such handguns reported stolen in October 2003. During the follow-up investigation, a citizen advised the Maryland State Police that he had recently observed an individual he knew as "Tec" – later determined to be Eric Barnett, a leader of a chapter of the Bloods street gang in Harford County – in possession of a black .40 caliber handgun. The description of the firearm provided by this witness was consistent with the still-missing Glock .40 caliber. On January 7, 2004, investigators obtained and executed a search warrant for the apartment on Edgewater Drive where Barnett lived with his girlfriend. The search recovered a black pancake-style, Glock .40 caliber handgun holster, along with quantities of marijuana and crack cocaine packaged for distribution. Barnett was arrested. He advised law enforcement officers that he knew what the police were looking for and that he had placed it in the trunk of his girlfriend's car, which was parked in front of the apartment. A search of the car resulted in the recovery of a loaded Glock .40 caliber pistol, one magazine, and sixteen rounds of .40 caliber ammunition from the trunk. This firearm proved to be the second stolen Glock. Barnett subsequently pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. On March 16, 2006, Barnett was sentenced to 6 years and 8 months in prison. The ATF, FBI, Harford County Sheriff's Office, and Maryland State Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

EDMONDSON VILLAGE INVESTIGATION

On December 8, 2006, federal, state, and local law enforcement joined forces to arrest 11 individuals on federal and state criminal charges related to a violent drug-trafficking organization that operated primarily in the Edmondson Village area of Baltimore. More than 130 federal, state, and local agents and officers executed 18 search warrants in connection with the arrests. A total of 17 defendants are charged as a result of the investigation – eight in federal court, and nine in state court. A federal grand jury indicted Antoine Turner, Gregory Williams, Sean Matthews, Robert Lee Daniels, Jacqueline Brandon, Davon Brown, Kennard Whitley, and Kevin Parsons with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine and heroin. A Baltimore City grand jury indicted Erica Jones, Catherine Stiles, Andre McLaughlin, David McLaughlin, Joshua Whitfield, Ellen Scullen, Jacque Brown, Roy Chandler, and Charles Owens with conspiracy to distribute and conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine and heroin. The ATF, Baltimore Police Department, and Maryland State Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. LIONEL GILLIAM, ET AL.

A series of indictments in 2005 and 2006 charged Lionel Gilliam, Sean Simpson, and Norberto Quinones with offenses arising from their operation of a violent drug-trafficking organization that distributed marijuana and crack cocaine in open air drug markets located in the Hilmar area of Prince George's County, Maryland. The defendants used apartments to store and package crack cocaine and to store their arsenal of firearms and intimidated individuals in the neighborhood by openly displaying and using firearms, including a Tec-9 and an AK-47 assault rifle. The defendants committed murders, robberies, assaults, carjackings, and other violent acts to prevent members of the conspiracy and others from providing information to law enforcement or otherwise interfering with the organization's operations. For example, on July 16, 2002, Gilliam shot and killed Donald Twitty because Gilliam believed Twitty was cooperating with law enforcement. Similarly, on October 22, 2002, Gilliam used an AK-47 assault rifle to shoot and kill Juan Clark because he believed Juan Clark had told Prince George's County Police about another associate's involvement in a crime. All three defendants were charged with conspiracy to distribute narcotics and conspiracy to possess firearms in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. Gilliam was charged with four murders, including the murders of Twitty and Clark, a non-fatal shooting, and a carjacking. Simpson was also charged with one murder, one non-fatal shooting, and multiple carjackings. Following a six-week trial beginning in December 2006, a federal jury convicted Gilliam, Simpson, and Quinones of all charges. On May 7, 2007, Simpson and Quinones were each sentenced to life imprisonment without parole. Gilliam, who also faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, is scheduled to be sentenced in June 2007. The FBI, the Prince George's County Police Department, and the Maryland State Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. NAKIE HARRIS, ET AL.

On January 15, 2005, members of the Bloods gang used "Molotov Cocktails" to firebomb the home of a woman in the Harwood community of Baltimore City to retaliate against her for providing information to law enforcement about drug trafficking in her neighborhood and to prevent

her from continuing to do so. A total of eight defendants were indicted on charges that included conspiracy to commit witness tampering, witness tampering by attempted murder, and use of firearms in a crime of violence. Three defendants – Nakie Harris, Richard Royal, and Terrence Smith – were convicted at trial in December 2005 of conspiracy to commit witness tampering, witness tampering by attempted murder, use of firearms in a crime of violence, and using fire and explosives in a felony. In February 2006, Harris and Royal were each sentenced to terms of 60 years in prison, while Smith was sentenced to a term of 80 years in prison. Four other defendants pleaded guilty to witness tampering and use of fire and explosives to commit a felony, and were sentenced as follows: in July 2006, Isaac Smith was sentenced to 12½ years in prison; in August 2006, Sedrick Bowman was sentenced to 15 years in prison; and in September 2006, Jackie Brewington was sentenced to 17 years and 8 months in prison and Andre Wilkins was sentenced to more than 20 years in prison. The remaining defendant, Shakia Watkins – who called the Baltimore City “911” operator to report a fictitious crime in order to divert police attention away from the area of the firebombing – pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit witness tampering and was sentenced to four years in prison. The ATF, the Baltimore Police Department, and the Baltimore City Fire Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

MS-13 INVESTIGATION

On August 23, 2005, 19 members of La Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, were charged with participating in a RICO conspiracy. MS-13 is a national and international criminal organization with approximately 10,000 members – primarily immigrants or descendants of immigrants from El Salvador – that regularly conducts gang activities in at least ten states and the District of Columbia, Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador. The MS-13 gang has been functioning in the United States since at least the 1980s. In the United States, the gang originated in Los Angeles, California, where MS-13 members engaged in turf wars for the control of drug distribution locations. MS-13 quickly spread to states across the country, including Maryland. MS-13 is one of the largest street gangs in the United States. Gang members actively recruit members, including juveniles, from communities with a large number of immigrants from El Salvador.

The charged defendants were members of three different Maryland “cliques” of MS-13 operating in Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties, which worked together cooperatively to commit acts of violence. The indictment alleges that MS-13 members were required to commit acts of violence to maintain membership and discipline within the gang and against rival gangs. The indictment charges that the purposes of the MS-13 racketeering enterprise included preserving and protecting the power, territory and profits of the gang through the use of intimidation, violence – including assaults and murder – and threats of violence and keeping victims in fear of the gang and in fear of its members and associates through violence and threats of violence. Specifically, the indictment alleges that from at least 2002 through August 2005, the defendants conspired to commit murder, kidnaping, robbery, and obstruction of justice. The indictment alleges that the defendants were responsible for six murders and five attempted murders in Maryland and Virginia. In April 2006, a second wave of more than a dozen search warrants and arrests took place to continue gathering evidence, disrupting the gang, and prosecuting its members.

In 2006, seven of the racketeering defendants pleaded guilty to racketeering and firearms

offenses and received lengthy sentences. On November 14, 2006, a federal jury convicted two other MS-13 members – Edgar Alberto Ayala, age 29, of Suitland, Maryland and Oscar Ramos Velasquez, age 21, of Baltimore – of all counts following a six-week trial. The pattern of racketeering activity established at trial included six murders in Maryland and one in Virginia; the use of deadly weapons including firearms, baseball bats, machetes, bottles or knives in the commission of numerous murders, attempted murders and assaults; assaults on an MS-13 gang member from El Salvador, juvenile females and rival gang members; kidnaping, robbery, obstruction of justice and witness tampering. Ayala and Velasquez are scheduled to be sentenced in May 2007.

A total of 41 defendants have been indicted on various federal offenses, including racketeering conspiracy, murders, and other acts of violence. To date, 12 gang members have pleaded guilty or been convicted at trial; charges against the others are pending. Three of those defendants – Jorge Rigoberto Amador, age 32, Antonio Roberto Argueta, age 25, and Juan Carlos Moriera, age 27 – face a possible penalty of death for murder in aid of racketeering and murder resulting from the use of a firearm in relation to a crime of violence.

The ATF's Regional Anti-Gang Enforcement ("RAGE") Task Force was the lead agency in this investigation. The RAGE Task Force includes representatives of the ATF, FBI, DEA, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Prince George's County Police Department, the Montgomery County Police Department, the Howard County Police Department, the Maryland National Capital Park Police, the Maryland State Police, and the Fairfax County, Virginia Police Department.

NORTH AVENUE BOYS

In 2005, six members of the violent street gang known as the "North Avenue Boys" – Shawn Henry, London King, Tyrell Fields, Ryan Ayers, Dante Faulkner, and Corey Grant – pleaded guilty to charges arising from their participation in a drug-trafficking conspiracy and a series of related shootings and murders. The defendants operated or worked for a drug distribution network that was responsible for selling large quantities of heroin, cocaine, and crack cocaine in East Baltimore from 1996 to June 2004. The indictment alleged that the defendants engaged in a series of acts of violence against members of a rival drug gang known as the "Project Boys." The feud between these two rival gangs spawned at least five murders and numerous non-fatal shootings between November 2000 and May 2001. In April 2005, Faulkner was sentenced to 40 years in prison, Henry was sentenced to 30 years in prison, and King, Fields, and Ayers each received 25 years in prison.

On February 3, 2006, Grant was sentenced to 20 years in prison. In all, 24 members of these two gangs have been convicted on federal drug conspiracy or related firearms charges in separate federal prosecutions by the U.S. Attorney's Office and have received sentences of between 20 and 40 years in prison, and several others pleaded guilty to similar charges in state court.

Following their sentencings, three of the defendants – Faulkner, Henry, and Fields – were re-indicted on witness-retaliation charges based on their beating of a cooperating witness in a holding cell immediately following their guilty pleas. In February 2006, Faulkner, Henry, and

Fields all pleaded guilty to those witness-retaliation charges. Faulkner and Fields were sentenced to five years in prison consecutive to the sentences they were already serving of 40 and 25 years, respectively. In April 2006, Henry was sentenced to over seven years in prison consecutive to the 30-year sentence he is already serving. The DEA and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

PIONEER CITY BOYS

On September 7, 2005, six members of a violent drug organization known as the “Pioneer City Boys” and one of their drug suppliers were indicted on charges of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and firearms offenses. The indictment alleged that from 2002 to 2005, the defendants distributed cocaine and crack cocaine in the Pioneer City, Still Meadows, and Meade Village communities in Severn, Maryland. The indictment charged that the defendants used violence and threats of violence to retaliate against competing drug traffickers and to deter community members from cooperating with law enforcement. The specific acts of violence alleged in the indictment included the September 2004 shooting of an Anne Arundel County police officer.

Six of the defendants pleaded guilty to crack or cocaine conspiracy charges and received sentences ranging from three years to 10 years in prison. On October 25, 2006, the remaining defendant, Calvin Savoy – identified as the shooter of the police officer – was convicted at trial. He was later sentenced to a mandatory term of life in prison. The ATF, the DEA, the Anne Arundel County Police Department, the Baltimore Police Department, and the Annapolis Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. V. SAMUEL PRICE, ET AL.

On December 1, 2005, seven members of the “Gilmor Boys,” a violent narcotics organization that operated at Baltimore and Gilmor Streets in West Baltimore and that is linked to several homicides, were indicted by a federal grand jury. The charges in this nine-count indictment included conspiracy to distribute heroin, distribution and possession with intent to distribute heroin, and related firearms charges based on guns recovered from one of the organization’s stash houses. During 2006, all nine defendants pleaded guilty to drug or firearms charges. The FBI and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. V. HOWARD RICE, ET AL.

In February 2005, a federal grand jury charged Howard Rice, Raeshio Rice, and 11 others with crimes arising from their operation of a large narcotics-trafficking enterprise in the Park Heights area of Baltimore City over a 10-year period. The 20-count RICO indictment charged that from 1995 through 2004, the defendants operated a racketeering enterprise that was responsible for the distribution of large quantities of cocaine and heroin, as well as multiple contract murders and attempted murders. In November 2005, a superseding indictment was returned adding new gun and drug counts against one of the defendants.

Twelve of the 13 members of the organization pleaded guilty to racketeering or narcotics

conspiracy charges and have been sentenced to, or are facing, lengthy terms in federal prison. Among those who pleaded guilty were George Butler, who had appeared in the “Stop Snitching” video, and who was sentenced in September 2006 to 10 years in prison. On October 19, 2006, shortly before trial, the two leaders of the organization – Howard Rice and Raeshio Rice – pleaded guilty and were sentenced to 30 years and 27 years in prison, respectively. The Rice brothers used the proceeds of their drug transactions to purchase property, jewelry, a Sea Ray boat, and luxury automobiles, including a Ferrari, Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz, two BMWs, a Cadillac, a Bentley and several motorcycles, which have been forfeited as part of their plea agreements.

The remaining defendant, Eric Hall, is charged with racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, cocaine conspiracy, heroin conspiracy, murder in aid of racketeering, attempted murder in aid of racketeering, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime resulting in death, arising from his role as an alleged “hitman” for the Rice Organization. In July 2006, the United States announced that it would be seeking the death penalty against Hall. The DEA, the Baltimore Police Department, and Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TAVON ROBINSON, ET AL.

In the spring of 2006, a federal grand jury charged 17 members of a violent Baltimore drug gang with crimes arising from their operation of an East Baltimore drug organization that distributed large quantities of cocaine, crack cocaine, and heroin throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area between December 1998 and March 2006. The gang was also responsible for several murders and other crimes of violence. The indictment also sought \$2,080,000 in criminal forfeitures.

During 2006, all 17 defendants pleaded guilty. The gang’s leaders, Terrence Moody and Tavon Robinson, were sentenced to 21 years, 10 months and 27 years in prison, respectively. The other members of the gang received or are facing substantial prison terms, including the following: in October 2006, Walter Harris was sentenced to 15 years and 8 months in prison, Antonio Jeffers was sentenced to 46 months in prison, Balewa Mayo was sentenced to 14 years in prison, Andre Miles was sentenced to more than 10 years in prison, and Christopher Shaw was sentenced to 10 years, 10 months in prison; in November 2006, Lashavio Gilliam was sentenced to 10 years in prison, and Larry Yarrall was sentenced to 12 years and 7 months in prison; and in December 2006, Michael Cooper was sentenced to 15 years and 8 months in prison. Several homes, vehicles, and a substantial quantity of cash were forfeited to the government as part of the guilty pleas. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

ARSON

U.S. v. WILLIAM COATES

On December 31, 2005 fire and rescue units responded to a fire at a farm cooperative known as Thurmont Cooperative, Inc., located at 36 Walnut Street in Thurmont, Maryland. Arson investigators determined that there were at least five points of origin for the fire. A propane torch

was located under the front counter of the office on and between several stacks of brown paper bags. William Coates, who had been employed at the cooperative but was then receiving workmen's compensation for an injury, was identified as the arsonist. On August 3, 2006, Coates pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years in prison. The ATF and the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. FORELL ISAAC

On December 7, 2004, Forell Isaac firebombed a group home because of an ongoing feud with one of the occupants. After Isaac was acquitted of the charges in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the ATF began investigating the incident. On September 28, 2006, Isaac was indicted on the charge of using fire to attempt to destroy a business engaged in interstate commerce, use of a destructive device, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He pleaded guilty in March 2007. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. RODNEY KEENE

On August 19, 2006, Rodney Keene and the owner of the J&H discount Liquor Store at 2104 Frederick Avenue in Baltimore had an argument over Keene's identification. Keene banged on the store plexiglass separating Keene from the store owner, cursed and spit at the store owner, and then left the store. A few minutes later, Keene returned and threw a "Molotov Cocktail," consisting of a beer bottle filled with gasoline and a cloth wick, into the store, starting a fire. The incident was captured on the store's video surveillance. On December 20, 2006, Keene pleaded guilty to using fire and an explosive to commit arson. On March 16, 2007, Keene was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. PATRICK WALSH, ET AL.

In January and April 2005, a federal grand jury returned indictments charging five defendants with committing the December 2004 arsons at the Hunters' Brooke housing development in Charles County, Maryland, the largest residential arson in Maryland's history. In September 2005, Patrick Walsh, the ringleader of the group, was convicted of conspiracy to commit arson and 35 counts of arson and was later sentenced to 19 years and 7 months in prison. Jeremy Parady pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit arson and was sentenced to 7 years and 3 months in prison; Aaron Speed pleaded guilty to the same charge and was sentenced to 8 years and 4 months in prison. Each defendant was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$3,274,538.42.

The trial of the remaining two defendants, Roy McCann and Michael Everhart, began in February 2006 and ended with a hung jury on March 16, 2006. However, on June 5, 2006, Everhart pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit arson and was later sentenced to three years and eight months in prison. On August 11, 2006, McCann pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit arson and conspiracy to distribute Ecstasy and was later sentenced to 46 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution. The ATF, FBI, Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal, and Charles County Sheriff's Office were the lead agencies in this investigation.

CARJACKING/ROBBERY

U.S. v. KENDALL ALEXANDER, SR., ET AL.

On August 10, 2005, Kendall Alexander, Sr. and his son, Kendall Alexander, Jr., committed an armed robbery of the Wachovia Bank located at 1726 East Northern Parkway, in Baltimore. Alexander, Sr. fired an assault weapon during the course of the robbery.

On August 30, 2005, a federal grand jury indicted Alexander, Sr. and Alexander, Jr. on charges of conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery, armed bank robbery, and use of a firearm during a crime of violence. Alexander, Sr. was also charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Alexander, Jr. was arrested on September 1, 2005, but his father remained a fugitive. On September 17, 2005, Alexander, Sr. returned to the Wachovia Bank located at 1726 East Northern Parkway in Baltimore City, this time armed with a revolver, and stole \$221,651 from the employees at the bank. Alexander, Sr. robbed the bank and fled to North Carolina. After being featured on *America's Most Wanted* and becoming concerned that he would be apprehended, Alexander, Sr. left North Carolina and sought the assistance of a relative, Marc Munford, who helped Alexander, Sr. secure a hotel room in the Baltimore area to hide from the police. On October 6, 2005, Alexander, Sr. was arrested shortly after departing his hotel.

Superseding indictments were filed adding additional charges and defendants, including both Munford and Earl Mills, Jr., the getaway driver who transported the Alexanders both to and from the bank. In November 2005, Alexander, Jr. pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm during a crime of violence and was sentenced in March 2006 to 10 years in prison. Earl Mills, Jr., the getaway driver, pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact and was sentenced to three years probation, with 6 months being served on home detention with electronic monitoring, and was ordered to perform 75 hours of community service. Munford pleaded guilty to harboring a fugitive and was sentenced in August 2006 to two years and nine months in prison. Alexander, Sr. pleaded guilty to armed bank robbery in February 2006. On April 21, 2006, he was sentenced to 27 years in prison and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$212,098.

The case was investigated by the FBI's Bank Robbery Task Force, which is comprised of FBI Special Agents and Detectives from the Baltimore Police Department and the Baltimore County Police Department.

U.S. v. LEON BAKER, ET AL.

On December 30, 2004, Leon Baker and Lawrence Shird, Jr. went to an automobile dealership in the 5700 block of Reisterstown Road in Baltimore. Baker spoke with an employee about his dissatisfaction with a car he had purchased there some time before, and demanded to speak on the telephone with the owner. Baker and the owner had a heated conversation on the telephone. After the call, Baker put on a pair of latex gloves and brandished a firearm, demanding access to the files of the business as well as the keys to a 1990 Lincoln Town Car that was on the lot. After breaking into a locked office and taking some documents, Baker and Shird took one of the

employees at gunpoint to another area of the business where the keys to the cars on the lot were kept. As they left the office area, Shird threatened a second employee. Baker and Shird took the keys, put a stolen 60-day temporary tag on the Lincoln, and left the business in the stolen vehicle.

On January 1, 2005, Shird and Baker were shooting off firearms in the backyard of a residence in Baltimore City. Baltimore Police Department patrol officers observed Shird and Baker firing into the air, reloading, firing again, and then going inside the residence. When the officers knocked on the front door, the occupant of the residence consented to a search of the premises. Shird was found in a second floor bedroom and Baker was found in a third floor bedroom. Among the items recovered during the search were two firearms and ammunition.

On September 14, 2005, Baker was driving the stolen 1990 Lincoln Town Car when Baltimore police officers, who were members of the Regional Auto Theft Task Force, determined that the tags were stolen. Officers surrounded the vehicle with their patrol cars and Baker attempted to ram the police vehicle behind him to get away. When officers broke the side windows of the Lincoln to grab Baker, he stopped the car and put up his hands. While being pulled from the vehicle, a fully-loaded 9 millimeter Beretta handgun with an obliterated serial number fell out from under Baker's shirt. He was arrested and gave a false name. During a subsequent search, officers recovered from his pants pockets a fully-loaded Taurus .38 caliber handgun and a plastic bag with 16 black top vials containing approximately 1.17 grams of cocaine base and four plastic baggies containing approximately 20 grams of cocaine base.

On February 3, 2006, Baker and Shird both pleaded guilty to robbery and gun charges. On April 21, 2006, Baker was sentenced to 14 years in prison, and Shird was sentenced to six years in prison. The ATF and Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JAMES BANGURA, ET AL.

On October 18, 2006, James Abu Bangura and Dartanion Antwon Wallace were indicted on armed bank robbery charges stemming from nine bank robberies committed by Bangura between May and August 2006. Wallace was charged with participating in two of those robberies. In May 2006, both Bangura and Wallace pleaded guilty to armed bank robbery and are awaiting sentencing. The FBI, Baltimore Police Department, and Elkton Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DONNELL BERRY

On August 3, 2006, Donnell Berry pleaded guilty to robbing 13 banks in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties between July and October 2005. On October 18, 2006, Berry was sentenced to more than 14 years in prison after he was determined to be a career offender, based on his numerous previous convictions for robbery with a dangerous weapon, robbery, and bank robbery. He was also ordered to pay restitution of \$47,729. The FBI and Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. GERALD BIGSBY

On August 22, 2006, Gerald Bigsby pleaded guilty to armed bank robbery and admitted having committed seven bank robberies between July 2005 and June 2006. In one of the 2005 robberies, Bigsby used a large knife. In each of the 2006 robberies, Bigsby threatened bank personnel with a fake bomb. Bigsby also admitted to robbing two Washington, D.C. banks, also involving threats with a fake bomb. On September 8, 2006, Bigsby was sentenced to 16 years and 8 months in prison. He was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$52,264. The FBI, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore County Police Department, and Montgomery County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. LEEANDER BLAKE

On August 31, 2006, a federal grand jury indicted Leeander Blake for first- and second-degree murder, carjacking, conspiracy to possess firearms in furtherance of a violent crime, and possession and discharge of a firearm in furtherance of a violent crime. The charges arise from the carjacking and murder of Straughan Lee Griffin on September 19, 2002. The indictment alleges that Blake participated in the carjacking of a 2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee owned by Griffin, then age 51. In the course of the carjacking Mr. Griffin was shot to death. The indictment further alleges that in September 2002, Blake conspired with other persons to use a firearm during, and to possess a firearm in furtherance of, the carjacking.

The U.S. Attorney's Office opened a federal investigation in November 2005 after the United States Supreme Court declined to review an adverse ruling by the Maryland Court of Appeals which required the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office to dismiss murder and carjacking charges against Blake. Blake's co-defendant in the state murder case, Terrance Tolbert, was convicted of first degree murder after a trial in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. Tolbert was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole. Tolbert's case is presently on appeal in state court.

Blake faces a maximum sentence of life in prison for the carjacking charge. The charges of murder resulting from the possession of a firearm also carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment without parole. Blake is not eligible for the death penalty due to his age at the time of the offense. The FBI, ATF, and Annapolis Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TIMOTHY BRIDGES

On June 28, 2006, a federal grand jury indicted Timothy Bridges on charges related to a series of armed robberies of owners or employees of retail establishments in the Baltimore area. The four-count indictment charges Bridges with conspiracy to commit robbery, robbery affecting commerce, use of a firearm in a crime of violence and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. According to the indictment, Bridges and others would follow the owners or employees of retail establishments after closing to other locations and rob them of the day's business cash receipts. On occasion, Bridges would shoot the people he robbed. The robberies charged in the indictment included a September 2004 robbery and shooting of an employee of Sterling Seafood, a January

2005 armed robbery of the owner of KAF International Food Market, and a March 2005 robbery and shooting of the owner of Global Food Market. Bridges faces up to life in prison on these charges, which are pending. The ATF and Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DONTE BROWN

On August 4, 2004, Donte Brown entered an Exxon gas station in Baltimore brandishing a loaded Ruger .45 caliber P-90 pistol and demanding that an Exxon employee give him money from the cash register. The station employee refused and began to fight with Brown. During the course of the fight, a Baltimore City Sheriff entered the station and helped subdue Brown, who was arrested. Brown later pleaded guilty to interference with commerce by robbery and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. On February 14, 2006, he was sentenced to 25 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DAVID BURNSIDE

On October 13, 2004, David Burnside robbed the New York Deli, located on West Baltimore Street, in Baltimore. Burnside entered the delicatessen, went directly behind the service counter, and pointed a gun at the owner/operator, demanding all the money in the store. When the owner protested that they did not have any money, Burnside pushed the gun in his stomach and again asked for all the money. The owner then gave Burnside all of the money from the cash register - \$89. When Burnside approached the owner's wife and began to probe inside her clothing in search of money, the owner tried to intervene and a struggle ensued. Burnside dropped the money and fled the store. A short time later Burnside was arrested and searched by Baltimore police officers, who discovered a mask and a .38 caliber special revolver, among other items. On February 2, 2006, Burnside pleaded guilty to obstruction of interstate commerce by robbery. On March 3, 2006, Burnside was sentenced to 15 years and 8 months in prison. The ATF and Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ERIC CLARK

On January 8, 2005, Eric Clark was arrested by Baltimore police officers after he and another individual robbed and assaulted a taxi driver by stabbing him in the back and cutting his face. The two individuals then carjacked the victim's vehicle and forced him out of his vehicle. An eyewitness called the police, and a lookout was broadcast. The vehicle was later located. Two males had been seen abandoning the vehicle, and one of those individuals – later identified as Clark – was located by police. When they stopped Clark, officers noticed dried blood on Clark's pants. During a pat down of Clark, officers recovered a Taurus 9mm pistol with an obliterated serial number, as well as a black knit hat, a roll of duct tape, a telephone cord, and cash. Clark was arrested, and the carjacking victim later identified Clark as one of his assailants. On March 2, 2006, Clark was charged federally and later pled guilty to use of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. On July 7, 2006, he was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison. The ATF and Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TRACY FLETCHER, ET AL.

On March 7, 2006, a federal indictment was unsealed charging Tracy Fletcher, Jarvis Brooks, Eugene Jenkins, Stephen Cure, Eric Thomas, and Charles Harrison with offenses committed in connection with a conspiracy to commit bank larceny by stealing Automated Teller Machines (ATMs). The indictment alleges that the defendants conspired to steal several ATMs in locations in Maryland and elsewhere and attempted to steal construction equipment for use in the thefts. Five of the defendants were arrested in March 2006. Fletcher remained a fugitive until June 21, 2006, when he was arrested at a WalMart in Jackson, Tennessee. The FBI had distributed Fletcher's photograph and description to law enforcement agencies around the country who were experiencing similar ATM robberies in their jurisdictions. An off-duty law enforcement officer, who was moonlighting as a security guard at the WalMart, recognized Fletcher from his photograph and arrested him. Five of the defendants have pleaded guilty. The charges against Fletcher are pending, and the investigation is ongoing. The FBI was the lead agency in this investigation.

U.S. v. DONALD GLADDEN JR.

On August 17, 2006, a federal grand jury indicted Donald Gladden, Jr. on charges of interference with commerce by robbery. The 10-count indictment charges Gladden with 10 commercial robberies in which he stole from \$33 to \$900 by threatening serious physical injury or death to the employees of the businesses. The maximum penalty for each count of interference with commerce by robbery is 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The charges are pending. The FBI and Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. KEVIN HONESTY

On October 18, 2006, Kevin Honesty pleaded guilty to bank robbery and using a firearm during a crime of violence. Honesty was sentenced to 25 years in prison for the August 9, 2002 armed robbery of a Silver Spring, Maryland bank. Honesty was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$55,275. Honesty admitted that he and two other men, wearing masks and armed with handguns, entered the bank and forced bank employees at gunpoint to provide access to the teller and vault areas. During a later search of Honesty's home, investigators recovered bank proceeds, three firearms, masks, and other items commonly used to commit bank robberies. The FBI, Montgomery County Police Department, and Anne Arundel County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ROBERT KOCH, ET AL.

On February 22, 2005, Robert Koch and David Glasscho entered a deli in Baltimore and demanded that a deli employee at the cash register give them money. Koch threatened the employee with a loaded semi-automatic pistol. Glasscho took money out of the cash register and fled with Koch in Koch's vehicle. Both were arrested after a brief chase. Koch and Glasscho both pleaded guilty to charges arising from the robbery. On July 11, 2006, Glasscho was sentenced to 18 years in prison. On August 3, 2006, Koch was sentenced to 17½ years in prison. The ATF and Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. MAURICE MEGGINSON

On April 8, 2005, a Baltimore police officer responded to a 911 call regarding an armed robbery in progress at the McDonald's restaurant located on Falls Road in Baltimore. When the officer arrived at the McDonald's, he observed a person matching the description of the suspect exiting the McDonald's wearing purple latex rubber gloves and carrying a black plastic bag. The officer approached the suspect, who was later identified as Maurice Megginson, and demanded to see his hands. Instead, Megginson crouched down, put the bag on the ground, and placed his hands in his hooded sweatshirt pocket. The officer again demanded that Megginson show his hands and lay down on the ground. Megginson began to comply, but then attempted to flee the scene. Megginson was apprehended after a short chase. While Megginson resisted arrest, a loaded 9mm handgun fell from his hooded sweatshirt pocket. Witnesses to the robbery advised police that Megginson had approached the McDonald's as it was opening. He brandished a handgun and demanded that the restaurant's employees go inside. While inside he pointed the handgun at the manager and demanded that she retrieve money from the store safe. The manager complied. Megginson pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence on February 15, 2006. On April 25, 2006, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison. The ATF and Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. SHAMSADEEN IBN PURVIS

On October 18, 2004, two Dunbar Armored guards went to a Popeye's Chicken and Biscuits in Capitol Heights, Maryland to transport the restaurant's funds. One of the guards retrieved two bags containing more than \$10,000. While the guard was still in the restaurant, Shamsadeen Ibn Purvis and an accomplice approached her and pushed her against a door, and each pointed a gun to the side of her throat. The accomplice threatened to kill the guard. Purvis took the bags of money, and his accomplice removed the guard's .38 caliber weapon, which he kept. Purvis and his accomplice fled the restaurant. Shortly after leaving the restaurant, Purvis or his accomplice discharged a firearm. The guard returned to the Dunbar Armored truck and, along with a second guard, pursued Purvis and his accomplice, who ran and then separated. Purvis, who kept the money, scurried over a pile of used tires into a wooded area, where he fell. After pursuing Purvis to the wooded area, the second guard drew her weapon and ordered Purvis to stay down.

A Prince George's County police officer responded and approached Purvis, locating a silver Sturm Ruger .45 caliber pistol on the ground near Purvis. On the tires over which Purvis ran, the officer found the stolen money and an orange reflective vest worn by Purvis during the robbery. On June 20, 2005, Purvis pleaded guilty to obstruction of interstate commerce by robbery and using a firearm during a crime of violence. On January 12, 2006, Purvis was sentenced to 22 years in prison. The FBI and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. THOMAS SPRINGER

On November 30, 2005, Thomas Springer passed a note which read, “Bank Robbery” through a teller window at a bank in Kensington. The teller turned over \$400 with dye packs, and Springer fled. A bank customer who was in the drive-through observed the dye packs explode in Springer’s coat pocket as he ran to his vehicle. The customer followed Springer as he drove to the Wheaton Plaza Mall, calling 911 and providing information about Springer’s location. Montgomery County police arrested Springer in the Wheaton Plaza parking lot. Springer’s hands and clothes were covered with red dye, as was his vehicle. On May 10, 2006, Springer pleaded guilty to multiple counts of bank robbery. As part of his plea, Springer admitted that he had committed seven bank robberies and attempted another between November 2004 and November 2005. On August 28, 2006, Springer was sentenced to 12½ years in prison and was ordered to pay \$20,869 in restitution to three banks. The FBI and Montgomery County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

MURDER/RELATED OFFENSES

U.S. v. JERMAINE BELL, ET AL.

In October 2006, Jermaine Bell was charged in a federal indictment with participating in a drug conspiracy and ordering three contract murders – the 2001 murders of Kenyatta Harris, Angelo Stringfellow, and Torrence Johnson – on behalf of his drug organization. The murders allegedly arose out of a violent feud between Bell’s organization and another drug organization. An accomplice, Roosevelt Spann, Jr., was also charged with the drug conspiracy and the Johnson murder. Three other defendants were later charged with participating in one or more of these murders in a superseding indictment filed in April 2007. The charges are pending. The ATF and Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ANTAWAN CORPREW

On February 13, 2002, federal marine and wildlife officials found a decomposing body near the Van Bibber Winters Run Water Treatment Facility, which is part of the Aberdeen Proving Ground. The cause of death was determined to be gunshot wounds to the head, which the medical examiner believed had occurred two to six months earlier. The body was identified as that of Gerald Hale III, who was 18 years old at the time of his death. Investigators determined that Hale had been kidnaped on October 24, 2001, from the intersection of Boone and 20th Streets in Baltimore. On that day, Corprew left his apartment and got into a car occupied by two others and Hale. After driving around Harford County, all four individuals got out of the car and entered a wooded area, where Hale was murdered. After the shooting, Corprew drove the others back to his apartment, where they stashed the gun. Corprew gave the gun to a neighbor, who in turn gave the gun to another person who attempted to hide it in some bushes near Corprew’s apartment. The gun was discovered by a young child. The child’s mother called the Maryland State Police, who took custody of the firearm. A subsequent ballistics test on the firearm matched the gun with one of the bullets removed from Hale’s body.

Corprew pleaded guilty in June 2005 to causing a person’s death through the use of a firearm

in a crime of violence. On August 25, 2006, Corprew was sentenced to 25 years in prison. The FBI and the Harford County Sheriff's Office were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. KENNETH LIGHTY, ET AL.

On January 3, 2002, Kenneth Lighty, Lorenzo Wilson, and James Flood III kidnaped Eric Hayes, a drug dealer who was also the son of a Metropolitan Police Department officer, in Washington, D.C. by forcing Hayes at gunpoint into their car. They then transported Hayes to Prince George's County, Maryland. The defendants pistol-whipped Hayes and shot him several times in the face, head, and limbs before dumping his body near a residential street in Temple Hills, Maryland. Three weeks later, Lighty and Wilson participated in a January 30, 2002 drive-by shooting that resulted in the death of Antoine Newbill and injured two other persons. Lighty was arrested with the gun in the District of Columbia on January 31, 2002. Lighty was on probation for a drug offense and on bond pending robbery charges in Prince George's County at the time of his involvement in these crimes. In October 2003, Lighty, Wilson, and Flood were indicted by a federal grand jury and charged with kidnaping resulting in death, conspiracy to commit kidnaping, and three counts of using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. On April 8, 2005, a federal jury convicted Wilson of conspiracy to commit kidnaping. On October 21, 2005, a federal jury convicted Lighty and Flood of kidnaping and murder. On November 15, 2005, a federal jury recommended the death penalty for Lighty.

On January 11, 2006, Flood was sentenced to life in prison; on January 30, 2006, Wilson was also sentenced to life in prison. On February 28, 2006, Lighty was sentenced to death for the kidnaping and murder of Hayes. Lighty also received a sentence of life plus 55 years on related conspiracy and gun charges. The FBI and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. LAMAR PRILLIMAN

On June 28, 2006, a federal grand jury indicted Lamar Prilliman on drug conspiracy and murder charges. The indictment alleges that between 1998 and 2006, Lamar Prilliman operated drug shops in Baltimore that distributed large quantities of heroin, cocaine, and crack cocaine. The indictment charges that on November 16, 2000, Prilliman arranged for and participated in the murder of one of his workers, Sharon Bagley, because he believed that Bagley would testify that she was selling crack cocaine for him. Prilliman was taken into federal custody in August 2006 and is awaiting trial. The DEA, ATF, and Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. SOLOTHAL THOMAS, ET AL.

On October 2, 2001, Solothal Thomas, a/k/a "Itchy Man," and Edward Countess, a/k/a "Bam," shot and killed Jesse Williams, then age 33, in the 8200 block of Courtland Manor Road in Baltimore County. Thomas and Countess ambushed Williams as he got into his car to go to work and shot him 15 times. The murder was a contract murder ordered by Baltimore City drug dealer

Tyree Stewart in retaliation for a 1999 robbery. Solothal Thomas, Countess, Danta Thomas, Linwood Smith, and Corey Smith were paid a total of \$10,000 for their roles in planning and carrying out the murder.

On July 6, 2006, following a three-week trial, Thomas and Countess were convicted of murder-for-hire, conspiracy to commit a murder-for-hire, and conspiracy to possess, and possession of, a firearm in furtherance of a drug crime or violent crime resulting in death. Countess was also convicted of conspiracy to distribute marijuana. Thomas and Countess had claimed that they were not subject to the jurisdiction of the federal courts. The defendants were removed from the courtroom after refusing to participate in the proceedings, and the trial continued without them.

On October 27, 2006, Thomas and Countess were each sentenced to life plus 10 years in federal prison. Thomas and Countess were sentenced to three concurrent terms of life in prison for murder-for-hire; conspiracy to commit a murder-for-hire; and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug crime or violent crime resulting in death; 20 years concurrent for conspiracy to possess a firearm in furtherance of a drug crime or crime of violence; and mandatory consecutive 10-year terms for possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug crime or violent crime. Countess was sentenced to an additional concurrent life term for conspiracy to distribute marijuana. In imposing sentence, U.S. District Judge Catherine C. Blake referred to the crime as "a cold-blooded murder for hire" and called this "an important, efficient, and effective prosecution."

Solothal Thomas, one of Baltimore's most violent and notorious killers, had become infamous for evading conviction for numerous prior murders and attempted murders. He is now serving his life sentences in a maximum security federal prison in Colorado. Danta Thomas and Linwood Smith previously pleaded guilty to charges relating to their participation in the murder. Tyree Stewart and Corey Smith both pleaded guilty in a separate case to engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise and as part of their pleas admitted to having ordered a contract killing on behalf of their drug organization. Their sentencings have not yet been scheduled. The ATF, Baltimore Police Department, and Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

WITNESS TAMPERING

We are committed to protecting witnesses and prosecuting those who would attempt to harm them. As these cases illustrate, we will not tolerate witness intimidation, and we will use the full force of state and federal law enforcement to bring about a swift prosecution and substantial punishment for anyone who threatens, intimidates, or retaliates against any witness.

U.S. v. FRED CARUSO

From 1999 through 2000, Fred Caruso conspired with others to distribute ecstasy in Maryland and New Jersey. In November 2000 Caruso arranged to sell Ecstasy to an established customer, Thomas Dixon, and sent a courier with approximately 41,000 tablets of Ecstasy to Maryland to meet Dixon. Law enforcement officers were conducting surveillance of Dixon and

observed the courier place two large shopping bags in Dixon's vehicle. Dixon and the courier were arrested and the Ecstasy was recovered. Dixon agreed to cooperate with law enforcement and made monitored calls to Caruso, who admitted to supplying the pills and sending the courier to deliver them. Caruso was indicted in Maryland on charges of conspiracy to distribute Ecstasy, and a trial date was set for October 2001. In preparation for trial, the government provided Caruso with copies of monitored conversations between Caruso and Dixon. The trial was subsequently postponed to allow the parties to conduct plea negotiations. On February 24, 2002, Dixon was shot six times as he left his home. He survived but suffered permanent injuries as a result of the shooting. Caruso solicited and hired other individuals to shoot Dixon in order to prevent him from testifying in the federal case. Caruso pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute Ecstasy, conspiracy to retaliate against a witness, conspiracy to distribute ketamine, and conspiracy to commit kidnaping. On October 3, 2006, Caruso was sentenced to 13 years and 7 months in prison. The DEA, Baltimore Police Department, and Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

MS-13 INVESTIGATION

See above.

U.S. v. NAKIE HARRIS, ET AL.

See above.

NORTH AVENUE BOYS

See above.

U.S. v. LAMAR PRILLIMAN

See above.

FIREARMS/DRUG-TRAFFICKING

Any felon who possesses a gun – and any other person who possesses a gun in furtherance of drug-dealing or a violent crime – risks federal prosecution and faces a long prison term, with no parole, far from home. Here are just a few examples of defendants who failed to heed this message in 2006.

U.S. v. ALONZO BRISCOE

On December 8, 2004, Alonzo Briscoe was standing on the 300 block of South Stricker Street, in Baltimore, when a marked Baltimore police car entered the block. The police car stopped behind a double-parked car near where Briscoe was standing. The officers got out of the police car to ask the driver of the double-parked car to move along. As the first officer emerged from the car,

he noticed that Briscoe moved his hand under his jacket, and the officer was able to see a firearm partly exposed in Briscoe's waistband area. The officer drew his weapon and called out to Briscoe. At the same time, two other officers got out of the car. Briscoe fled into a vacant lot and tossed the weapon. Briscoe was caught and arrested, and the officers retrieved the firearm in the vacant lot. The weapon, a .32 caliber Colt handgun, was loaded and had a round in the chamber. Briscoe was convicted by a federal jury on December 7, 2005. On February 24, 2006, Briscoe was sentenced to 17 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DAVID BROWN, ET AL.

From 2004 until July 2005, David Brown and Taki Hughes operated a drug shop in which they distributed cocaine and crack at the 1700 block of Crystal Avenue, between Register and Rutland Avenues, in Baltimore. Officers surveilled Brown and Hughes serving drug customers and, on two occasions, officers seized their drug stash, which was secreted in a vacant house. Brown and Hughes both pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. Brown also pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. On May 31, 2006, Hughes was sentenced to 10 years in prison. On June 1, 2006, Brown also received a 10-year sentence. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TREMAINE CARTER

On September 26, 2003, Baltimore police officers observed Tremaine Carter driving a car while unrestrained by a seat belt. When two officers made efforts to stop the vehicle, Carter leaned out the window and fired three shots at both officers, who were within a few feet of him, and then fled in the vehicle at a high rate of speed. At some point during the ensuing chase, Carter's vehicle crashed into a pursuing police cruiser, causing Carter's vehicle to spin out of control and into a limousine. A passenger in that limousine suffered a broken ankle in the collision. Carter was removed from his vehicle and officers found a handgun between his knees with three spent casings inside. A search of the automobile revealed bullets and shotgun shells in the glove box and seven ziplock bags, each containing crack, on the front floorboard. On April 20, 2006, Carter pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. On June 29, 2006, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ANQOINE CHAMBERS

On August 30, 2005, Prince George's County police officers observed Anqoine Chambers talking to three other individuals. As officers approached, all four men began to flee, with Chambers tossing a handgun into a nearby bush as he ran. Chambers was apprehended after a brief pursuit. Officers recovered a loaded .40 caliber firearm and a bag containing a total of 1.49 grams of crack cocaine from the bush; the crack cocaine was packaged in smaller baggies for distribution. Officers also recovered a loaded magazine from Chambers' pocket and marijuana packaged for distribution from Chambers' vehicle. Chambers pleaded guilty on September 11, 2006 to possession of a

firearm by a convicted felon. On December 12, 2006, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The ATF and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TIMOTHY FISHER

In October 2004, an undercover Harford County police officer purchased small quantities of cocaine from Timothy Fisher. Law enforcement officers subsequently searched Fisher's home and recovered four handguns, almost 700 rounds of ammunition, 13.8 grams of crack cocaine, 15.8 grams of powder cocaine, and a bullet-proof vest. Fisher stated that he needed the firearms and body armor to protect his drug business. He also admitted that he owned an Uzi semi-automatic that he used in September 2004 in an exchange of gunfire with a Baltimore drug dealer in a dispute over the purchase of a kilogram of cocaine. Fisher subsequently pleaded guilty and was sentenced in May 2006 to 13 years in prison. The ATF and the Harford County Sheriff's Office were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. CHARLES GARRISON, ET AL.

Charles Garrison, John Long, Maurice Green, and James Sweets conspired from 2003 to 2004 to distribute drugs from various locations, including 7 South Broadway Street in Baltimore. On April 30, 2004 officers recovered 53 grams of crack cocaine, 10 grams of heroin and a quantity of powder cocaine from the South Broadway location that was used by the conspiracy. Just a few weeks earlier, Long and others had moved a cache of firearms from that South Broadway location to a location on South Highland Avenue. The investigators tracked those weapons down and seized them on May 4, 2004. The weapons included a shotgun and three handguns, all of which were loaded. The co-conspirators also participated in several robberies, shootings, and other drug-related crimes of violence in Baltimore.

Sweets was convicted at trial of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and conspiracy to possess firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking and was later sentenced to 30 years in prison. Green, Garrison, and Long pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, heroin, powder cocaine and other controlled substances and using a firearm in relation to a drug-trafficking crime. Green was sentenced to 11 years and 3 months in prison. On June 27, 2006, Garrison was sentenced to 22½ years in prison. On October 23, 2006, Long was sentenced to 13 years and 4 months in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. HAROLD GREENE

On July 9, 2005, Baltimore police officers traveling in the 1500 block of Abbotston observed Harold Greene, in a light colored Oldsmobile, look in the direction of the officers and then quickly get out of the car, leaving both the driver's side door and window open. The officers then approached the Oldsmobile and observed a 9mm handgun in the open center console area of the vehicle. Greene was placed under arrest. A search of the vehicle revealed a black bag containing nearly 85 grams of cocaine, a scale with cocaine residue, approximately \$2,000 in cash, and papers and documents in Greene's name. On February 7, 2006, Greene pleaded guilty to being a felon in

possession of a firearm. On April 21, 2006, Greene was sentenced to 17½ years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JEROME HENDERSON

On November 3, 2002, Baltimore police officers tried to stop Jerome Henderson because he matched a victim's description of a man who had just attempted to rob him with a gun. As the officers attempted to apprehend Henderson, he fled and threw his loaded Beretta semi-automatic pistol onto the grassy median of Eutaw Street in Baltimore. Henderson was convicted by a federal jury of being a felon in possession of a firearm. On April 14, 2006, Henderson was sentenced to 15 years and 4 months in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. WILLIAM KING AND ANTONIO MURRAY

From at least 2004 until May 2005, then-Baltimore police officers William King and Antonio Murray conspired to rob drug dealers of their drugs and money and then to sell the drugs in Baltimore. Witnesses testified that King and Murray used their police powers and service pistols to detain drug dealers. King and Murray then took the drugs and drug proceeds from the dealers through threats of force, arrest, and prosecution. They would release the dealers without any resulting charges or prosecution. King and Murray later split the proceeds of the illegal seizures from the drug dealers, as well as the proceeds from the sale of the drugs they seized from the dealers. In 2005, King and Murray were charged with numerous counts of conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery and extortion, conspiracy to distribute cocaine, heroin, and marijuana, possession of firearms in furtherance of crimes of violence and drug trafficking, and robbery and extortion.

On April 7, 2006, King and Murray were convicted by a federal jury of conspiracy to obstruct commerce by robbery, conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute heroin, marijuana and over five grams of cocaine base, and conspiracy to possess firearms in furtherance of a crime of violence. Additionally, King was convicted of 13 counts of possession of firearms in furtherance of a crime of violence or a drug-trafficking crime, seven robberies and seven counts of possession with intent to distribute heroin as well as counts for distribution of marijuana and cocaine base. Murray was convicted of six counts of possession of firearms in furtherance of a crime of violence or a drug-trafficking crime, four robberies and four counts of possession with intent to distribute heroin. On June 16, 2006, King was sentenced to over 315 years in prison. On June 23, 2006, Murray was sentenced to 139 years in prison. The FBI was the lead agency in this investigation.

U.S. v. KONDWANI MARTIN

On February 10, 2005, law enforcement officers responded to the Upper Deck Bar on South

Eutaw Street in Baltimore for a report of an assault. An Upper Deck security guard advised officers that a male armed with a firearm had just left the premises. The security guard pointed out the man, later identified as Kondwani Martin, who was walking across the street and advised that he had the gun in the back of his pants. Officers approached Martin and asked him to stop walking, but he refused and continued to walk away. As Martin walked south on Eutaw Street, the gun fell from his pant leg and he bent down and picked it up. Officers ordered Martin to drop the weapon and show his hands. Martin approached a gray Nissan and opened the passenger side door. Officers again commanded Martin to drop the weapon. Martin refused, got behind the car door and raised the firearm, pointing in the direction of an officer. Fearing for his safety, the officer fired at Martin, who ran down Pratt Street. As Martin ran he fired several shots at the officers and an officer returned fire. Martin stopped firing his weapon and ran south on Howard Street. Officers quickly located him lying on the sidewalk with gunshot wounds. Martin was arrested and officers recovered his gun, from which five cartridges had been fired. On April 21, 2006, Martin pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. RODNEY MCCAIN

On November 30, 2005, Rodney McCain sold a small quantity of crack cocaine to an individual who paid \$40 that had been obtained from an undercover detective. The drug transaction occurred in the area of Forestville Road and Marlboro Pike in Forestville. McCain was then followed and arrested shortly thereafter. Prince George's County police officers recovered the \$40, as well as an additional 28 grams of crack cocaine packaged for distribution and approximately \$3,200 in cash. McCain was wearing a belly-band holster containing a loaded .38 caliber revolver. McCain pleaded guilty on August 11, 2006. On September 14, 2006, he was sentenced to 16 years and 8 months in prison. The ATF and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. MAURICE MOUZON

On September 28, 2006, law enforcement officers executed a search and seizure warrant at Maurice Mouzon's residence. Mouzon was located in his bedroom, along with more than \$7,000 in drug proceeds and a loaded .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol. During a subsequent search of Mouzon's vehicle, agents and officers recovered over 200 grams of powder cocaine. Mouzon later pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute cocaine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking offense and was sentenced to 20 years and 8 months in federal prison. The FBI and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation, which was a proactive investigation conducted as part of the Violent Repeat Offender initiative of Maryland EXILE.

U.S. v. KARIM MOWATT

On November 17, 2005, officers of the Bladensburg Police Department received a report

about loud music and a strong odor of marijuana coming from an apartment in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road in Bladensburg. Officers knocked on the door several times. Witnesses testified that Karim Mowatt initially refused to open the door but finally did so, and a strong odor of marijuana emanated from within the premises. Mowatt refused repeated commands to show his hands as he began to back into the apartment foyer toward an open bedroom door. Believing that Mowatt might possess a weapon, officers attempted to secure him. Mowatt swung at an officer's hand, and the officers arrested Mowatt. After the arrest, officers observed a loaded .357 caliber revolver on the floor just inside the door of the bedroom. Mowatt attempted to escape custody despite being handcuffed. After Mowatt's arrest, officers obtained a search warrant for his apartment and recovered 1,594 Ecstasy pills in his refrigerator/freezer, two semi-automatic rifles with loaded magazines, ammunition, body armor, packaged marijuana, a digital scale, and \$19,640 from two bags hidden within the headrest of a chair. In addition to his repeated and violent efforts to resist arrest, Mowatt later said that he "should have shot" the arresting officers when he had the opportunity.

On May 10, 2006, Mowatt was convicted by a federal jury of possession with intent to distribute Ecstasy, possession of a firearm and body armor by a convicted felon, and use of a firearm in connection with a drug-trafficking crime. On August 17, 2006, Mowatt was sentenced to 16 years and 5 months in prison. The ATF, DEA, Montgomery County Police Department, and Bladensburg Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ANTHONY PENDER

On December 8, 2005, Anthony Pender was arrested in connection with a drug transaction at the Riverdale Shopping center in Riverdale, Maryland. A search of the car driven by Pender revealed over five grams of crack cocaine. Prince George's County detectives discovered a loaded Ruger P95 pistol and an additional 48.52 grams of crack cocaine, as well as paraphernalia and other evidence of drug distribution at his residence. In August 2006, Pender was convicted by a federal jury of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. On December 4, 2006, Pender was sentenced to life in prison. The ATF and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ANTOINE POPE AND JOHN HOLLIS

On August 31, 2005, Hagerstown Police officers responded to a report of a home invasion on Clarendon Avenue in Hagerstown. En route to that location, a police officer observed a vehicle five blocks from the scene of the reported home invasion that was being driven erratically. The driver also matched a description of the reported intruder. The officer stopped the vehicle, which was driven by Antoine Pope and contained a passenger, later identified as John Hollis. When asked to exit the vehicle, Hollis fled, dropping a handgun. An officer grabbed Pope's arms and asked whether there were any weapons in the car. Pope replied that he was sitting on a gun. A search revealed a fully loaded Taurus .38 caliber revolver between Pope's legs. Pope pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm in March 2006; Hollis pleaded guilty to the same charge in

June 2006. On April 21, 2006, Pope was sentenced to 15 years and 8 months in prison. On August 25, 2006, Hollis was sentenced to eight years in prison. The ATF and the Hagerstown Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JERMAINE POWELL

On September 22, 2005, law enforcement officers executed a search warrant at Jermaine Powell's residence, recovering a Bersa .380 caliber pistol and a box of Winchester .380 caliber ammunition. Powell told authorities that the firearm belonged to him and that he had purchased the ammunition from a store in south Baltimore. On October 13, 2006, Powell pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. On December 8, 2006, Powell was sentenced to 15 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TORICO REAVES

On December 7, 2005, Anne Arundel County police officers stopped an automobile driven by Torico Reaves for a traffic violation. The traffic stop followed a citizen's call to a 911 dispatcher reporting that the caller had witnessed the driver of the car engage in a drug transaction, and that the driver was in possession of a handgun. The officers asked Reaves to step out of the vehicle, at which time Reaves raised his hands in the air and stated that he had a gun. As Reaves stepped from the vehicle, officers observed a black handgun on the driver's seat of the vehicle. The handgun was loaded with seven rounds of ammunition. Reaves was arrested, and \$2,000 in cash was also recovered from the vehicle. In July 2006, Reaves was convicted by a federal jury of being a felon in possession of a firearm. On October 10, 2006, he was sentenced to 15 years in prison. The ATF and Anne Arundel County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. COREY RICHARDSON

Corey Richardson was involved in a gun battle with Baltimore County police officers on October 4, 2005. Officers arrived at the scene after receiving a report that shots had been fired. Police canvassed the area and located Richardson and another suspect. Witnesses testified that both Richardson and the other suspect fled at the sight of police. Officers chased Richardson, who fired at the officers. Officers eventually arrested Richardson and found a .38 caliber pistol he had used, 15 live and three spent rounds of ammunition, and 30 bags of crack cocaine. On March 23, 2006, Richardson was convicted by a federal jury of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. On July 11, 2006, Richardson was sentenced to 46 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ROBERT RIDDICK

On November 8, 2004, Baltimore police officers received information from a confidential source about an individual engaged in drug activity in the 3700 block of Duvall Street. The officers drove to the site and observed Robert Riddick in the process of handing an individual a small object in exchange for money. The officers exited their vehicle and displayed their badges. The officers

pursued Riddick as he ran to the top floor of a dwelling at 3700 Duvall Street. Riddick was arrested, and officers recovered 40 ziplock bags containing crack cocaine, a loaded .45 caliber handgun, and \$133. Riddick later pleaded guilty and, on January 24, 2006, he was sentenced to 13 years and 9 months in prison. The DEA and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. LAMONT SANDERS

On October 10, 2005, Baltimore police officers observed Lamont Sanders sell three capsules of heroin to an undercover officer, and then conduct what appeared to be narcotics sales with two other individuals. The officers attempted to stop Sanders in his car, but he rammed a police car and led police on a high speed chase through the city and into Baltimore County. Eventually Sanders's car crashed and he was arrested. The officers found narcotics and \$1,736 in drug proceeds in Sanders' car. Additional investigation by the arresting officers revealed that Sanders had provided a false home address. The officers executed a search warrant at Sanders's actual apartment and recovered a plastic baggie containing 18.86 grams of crack cocaine; packages of unused ziplock bags, commonly used for packaging drugs for street-level sale; a cutting agent used in drug distribution; and a digital scale with residue from cocaine. Officers also recovered three firearms and numerous rounds of ammunition.

On June 29, 2006, Sanders pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug-trafficking. On October 31, 2006, Sanders was sentenced to 26 years and 10 months in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. SEAN SCOTT

On August 1, 2005, a Baltimore police officer stopped a car with a cracked windshield. The officer went to the driver's window and saw the front seat passenger, Sean Scott, adjusting an object that was bulging under his t-shirt at his waistband. Scott was shaking and sweating and appeared nervous. Believing that the passenger was armed, the officer called for backup. Upon his arrival, the backup officer asked Scott to get out of the car, and as Scott did so, he put his hands above his head and said, "I've got a nine." The officer frisked Scott and recovered a loaded .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun in his waistband. On May 3, 2006, a federal jury convicted Scott of being a felon in possession of a firearm. On August 16, 2006, Scott was sentenced to 17 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. PANAGOITIS SKORDALOS

On October 14, 2005, Baltimore police officers stopped a vehicle driven by Panagoitis Skordalos for a traffic violation. When officers approached the vehicle, Skordalos sped off in his vehicle. Officers following the car saw Skordalos throw a shiny object out of the window during the chase. That object was later identified as a loaded .25 caliber pistol. Skordalos' vehicle finally stopped after hitting a police car and a parked car. Skordalos pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm on July 17, 2006. On October 6, 2006, he was sentenced to 15 years in

prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. KEVIN SUMMERS

On June 19, 2006, Kevin Summers was convicted by a federal jury possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. According to evidence presented at trial, Prince George's County police officers observed Summers standing on a street corner of an open-air drug market at Glacier Avenue and Fable Street. Summers appeared to wave down passing vehicles in a fashion consistent with narcotics trafficking. The officers radioed for another officer to assist. When the officer arrived and asked Summers if they could talk, Summers ran away. During the ensuing chase, Summers stripped off his jacket and threw it on the roof of a house. Shortly thereafter, Summers was arrested. A loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun and 91 grams of crack cocaine were recovered from his jacket. As he was being brought into the police station, Summers broke free and, still handcuffed, ran for several blocks. When officers caught him, Summers was trying to get into the passenger seat of an SUV, pleading with the driver to help him escape. On September 7, 2006, Summers was sentenced to 21 years and 10 months in prison. The FBI and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DON THOMAS, JR., ET AL.

On March 4, 2004, law enforcement officers intercepted telephone calls between Ramon Rodriguez and Richard Stanford in which Rodriguez set up a meeting to pick up four kilograms of cocaine. Law enforcement officers followed Rodriguez to Philadelphia, where he was observed meeting with two unknown males. Upon completion of the two meetings, Rodriguez returned to Baltimore County, Maryland, where he met with Stanford at the Eastpoint Mall in order to deliver the cocaine to Stanford. Both Stanford and Rodriguez were arrested and a search of Rodriguez's vehicle revealed approximately four kilograms of cocaine in a hidden compartment in the vehicle. After being arrested, Rodriguez advised law enforcement officers that at Stanford's request he made regular trips to Philadelphia to deliver money, usually supplied by Stanford, and to pick up kilograms of cocaine. Rodriguez also advised law enforcement authorities that he had on a prior occasion delivered a kilogram of cocaine to Don Thomas, Jr. at the same location in Eastpoint Mall where he and Stanford had been arrested with the four kilograms of cocaine. Officers had observed a meeting between Rodriguez and Thomas and had also observed an exchange between the two.

On March 5, 2004, a search warrant was executed at Don Thomas's residence. During that search, officers recovered approximately one ounce of 90% pure cocaine, two ounces of cutting materials in the freezer area of the refrigerator, a digital scale, two handguns, multiple small ziplock bags of the type used to package narcotics, and a total of \$20,314 in cash. Stanford, Rodriguez, and Thomas all pleaded guilty to drug charges. Thomas also pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. Stanford was sentenced to 21 years and 10 months in prison. Rodriguez was sentenced to seven years and three months in prison. On May 19, 2006, Thomas was sentenced to 25 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. WINFRED TRAVIS

On November 9, 2005, a cooperating individual working under the supervision of law enforcement agents obtained 133 grams of crack cocaine from Winfred Travis. Montgomery County police officers stopped Travis on January 18, 2006, for a traffic violation and seized 492 grams of cocaine from the vehicle. Frederick police officers searched his residence later that day and seized 148 grams of crack cocaine, one gram of marijuana, \$19,269 in cash, a .45 caliber handgun, a box of Winchester .45 caliber bullets, and drug paraphernalia. On June 15, 2006, Travis pleaded guilty to distribution of crack cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. On October 30, 2006, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison. The DEA, Montgomery County Police Department, and Frederick Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. RAYMOND WATTS

On June 10, 2005, Raymond Watts and a companion drove to two service stations in the 6600 block of Riverdale Road, in Riverdale. Watts sold powder and crack cocaine at the gas stations to numerous individuals who approached his vehicle. Officers who observed these activities attempted to stop the vehicle as it left the second gas station. Watts drove into an apartment complex and as the vehicle stopped, he gave his companion several items, including a loaded .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun, a plastic bag containing 426.7 grams of crack cocaine, 367.6 grams of powder cocaine, an electronic scale, and approximately \$16,327 in cash. His companion grabbed the items and fled into an apartment building, where he was arrested and the items were recovered. Watts pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon just prior to the beginning of his trial in October 2006. On December 29, 2006, Watts was sentenced to 24 years and 4 months in prison. The DEA, ATF, and Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ROBERT WEILER, JR.

On June 7, 2006, Robert Weiler, Jr. spoke by telephone with ATF agents while they were interviewing one of Weiler's friends. Weiler advised that he was at a rest stop in Western Maryland and wanted to surrender himself immediately; he was in possession of a firearm that he had stolen from a friend; and he had constructed a pipe bomb that was concealed in a closet in a house located in Riverdale, Maryland. Agents arrested Weiler at the rest stop and recovered a loaded .40 caliber handgun from the vehicle Weiler had been driving. Weiler was prohibited from possessing a firearm based on a 2003 conviction in Utah state court for obstructing police. The next day, Weiler advised agents that he was going to use the pipe bomb to blow up an abortion clinic located in Greenbelt, Maryland and that he was going to use the gun to shoot doctors who provided abortions. ATF agents and Prince George's County police officers discovered the pipe bomb – consisting of a 1"-diameter galvanized pipe, end caps, a length of pyrotechnic fuse and black powder – in a first-floor closet at the Riverdale home where it had been hidden by Weiler. Weiler later pleaded guilty to possession of a pipe bomb (an unregistered destructive device), possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and attempting to destroy or damage an abortion clinic. On December 18, 2006, Weiler was sentenced to five years in prison. The ATF, Prince George's County Police Department, and Maryland State Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. WALLACE WHITE

On July 6, 2005, Baltimore police officers were in a vehicle on patrol when they noticed Wallace White walking along Cliftview Avenue holding his arms in such a way as to indicate an armed person. The officers pulled up to interview White and identified themselves as police. White turned toward the officers' vehicle while raising his shirt and withdrawing a black handgun from his waistband. White turned and fled on foot, with officers in pursuit. White cut through a break between two houses where he threw an item to the ground. An officer eventually apprehended White a few blocks away, without the gun. Officers returned to the site where the item had been thrown and located a loaded magazine. Another officer found the gun, which White had thrown over a row of garages as he ran through an alley. White was convicted by a federal jury of being a felon in possession of a firearm. On May 23, 2006, he was sentenced to 19 years and 7 months in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DARIUS WILSON

On January 11, 2006, ATF agents and Prince George's County police officers executed a search warrant at Darius Wilson's residence and recovered three loaded firearms, body armor, 33 grams of crack cocaine, 3.75 ounces of PCP, \$2,021 in cash, and a digital scale. Wilson pleaded guilty on April 13, 2006 to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon. On July 21, 2006, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The ATF and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. CRAIG WINKEY, ET AL.

In May 2006, a federal grand jury indicted Craig Winkey, Corey Slater, Andre Everett, and Ty Hopkins, all of the Oswego Mall area of Baltimore, for crimes committed in connection with a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Slater and Hopkins have pleaded guilty. The charges against Winkey and Everett are pending. The DEA and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation, which was a proactive investigation conducted as part of the Violent Repeat Offender initiative of Maryland EXILE.

U.S. v. VICTOR WRIGHT

On June 10, 2006, Victor Wright was convicted by a federal jury of being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to trial testimony, Wright was in a disabled vehicle on Interstate 495 in Montgomery County, Maryland. When officers approached the vehicle they noticed a gun sticking out of the center armrest area of the front seat. Wright was arrested, and a stolen 9mm handgun was recovered from the car. On October 16, 2006, Wright was sentenced to 19 years and 7 months in prison. The ATF and the Maryland State Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

MARYLAND EXILE STRATEGY

In early 2006, the U.S. Attorney's Office and its local, state, and federal partners began implementing Maryland EXILE, a unified and comprehensive strategy to combat gun crime that combines law enforcement efforts, community action and revitalization, and public awareness. The success of this strategy depends on a partnership – a true team effort – among our local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and on the dedication and determination of community activists, educators, and civic and faith-based organizations.

The Maryland EXILE partners include the State's Attorneys' Offices, local Police Departments, the Division of Parole and Probation of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Maryland Parole/Probation), the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), the U.S. Attorney's Office, the ATF, the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug-Trafficking Area (HIDTA), the DEA, the FBI, ICE, and the United States Marshals Service.

The components of the Maryland EXILE law enforcement strategy for Baltimore City and Prince George's County are designed to focus law enforcement resources on the most violent individuals and most violent geographic areas in those jurisdictions and to achieve the goal of arresting and detaining violent offenders as quickly as possible while also ensuring that violent organizations and groups are permanently dismantled.



The fundamental principle of Maryland EXILE is that *any felon who carries a gun in Maryland is going to jail.* By successfully executing the Maryland EXILE strategy, we will empower law-abiding citizens to rid their neighborhoods of criminals who spread violence and despair and to reclaim their communities.

The primary components of the Maryland EXILE strategy are as follows:

- coordinating state and federal prosecutions of firearms cases;
- pursuing gangs and the most violent repeat offenders;
- stopping the illegal trafficking of firearms;
- providing training and support for law enforcement agencies;
- protecting citizens who assist in law enforcement investigations;
- conducting community outreach and public awareness; and
- ensuring accountability among all of the Maryland EXILE partners.

In both Baltimore City and Prince George's County, the first year of the Maryland EXILE program was marked by a significant increase in federal firearms prosecutions, lengthy federal and state prison sentences for numerous defendants prosecuted for firearms-related offenses, and successful efforts to take some of the most violent repeat offenders in Baltimore City and Prince George's County off the streets. In addition, the Maryland EXILE program launched an extensive outreach and media campaign including bus billboards, radio public service announcements, and posters advertising lengthy federal sentences received by particular defendants.

The following is a brief overview of some of the accomplishments of the Maryland EXILE program in its first year in Baltimore City and Prince George's County.

FIREARMS PROSECUTIONS

Under Maryland EXILE, the U.S. Attorney's Office and ATF are working with other federal agencies to support the mission of our local prosecutors and police by investigating and prosecuting as many significant firearms cases as possible and by using the prospect of federal prosecution to encourage defendants to take prompt guilty pleas to firearms charges in state court.

"FLIP" Letters

In appropriate cases, once the U.S. Attorney's Office has determined that a case is ready to be indicted, the U.S. Attorney's Office sends a letter to the State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City or Prince George's County (SAO) advising that the case will proceed federally if the case has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the SAO by a specified deadline. That letter – known as a "Federal Letter of Intent to Prosecute," or "FLIP" letter – is then shared with the defendant and state defense counsel. If the defendant does not plead guilty by the deadline, the defendant is promptly transferred to federal court to face federal prosecution.

In Baltimore City, a total of 36 FLIP letters were sent to state prosecutors in 2006. Of the 36 defendants who received FLIP letters, 27 defendants – or 75% – pled guilty to state charges carrying at least the mandatory five-year sentence. Two defendants are still pending. Defendants who rejected the state pleas were indicted in federal court. In Prince George's County, 20 FLIP letters were sent to state prosecutors in 2006. In response to those letters, 11 defendants pled guilty to charges carrying at least the mandatory five-year sentence. Two defendants are still pending, and

seven of the defendants rejected the state pleas and were indicted in federal court.

Federal Indictments – Baltimore City and Prince George’s County

Baltimore City

In Baltimore City in 2006, the U.S. Attorney’s Office filed a total of 113 indictments and two criminal complaints charging 151 defendants with firearms and related offenses. As reflected in the chart below, the number of federal charges represents an 11% increase in the number of indictments and a 23% increase in the number of defendants charged federally with similar offenses in 2005. As noted above, 27 of the total of 36 FLIP letters sent have been resolved through state pleas. Combined with the 115 federal charges and 151 defendants in Baltimore City firearms cases, the U.S. Attorney’s Office handled a total of 142 Baltimore City firearms cases involving 178 defendants during 2006. **This represents a 37% increase in the number of cases handled and a 45% increase in the number of defendants charged over 2005.**

Baltimore City Totals

<u>Federal Gun Charges</u>	<u>Full Year 2006</u>		
ATF-HIDTA Cases:	88 Indictments ¹ /90 Defendants		
Other Cases:	<u>+ 27 Indictments/61 Defendants</u>		
Total:	115 Indictments/151 Defendants		
<u>Total Cases Handled</u>	<u>Full Year 2006</u>	<u>Full Year 2005</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Federal Charges:	115 Indictments/151 Defendants	104 Indictments/123 Defendants	+11%/+23%
FLIP Letters:	<u>+ 27 FLIP letters/27 Defendants</u>		
Total:	142 Cases/178 Defendants	104 Indictments/123 Defendants	+37%/+45%

Prince George’s County

In Prince George’s County in 2006, U.S. Attorney’s Office filed a total of 51 indictments or criminal complaints charging 53 defendants with firearms and related offenses. As reflected in the chart below, the number of federal charges represents a 42% increase in the number of indictments and an 18% increase in the number of defendants charged federally with similar offenses in 2005. As noted above, 11 of the total of 20 FLIP letters sent have been resolved through state pleas. Combined with the 51 federal charges and 53 defendants in Prince George’s County firearms cases, the U.S. Attorney’s Office handled a total of 62 Prince George’s County firearms cases involving

¹ Includes two cases charged by complaint in 2006 and subsequently indicted.

64 defendants during 2006. **This represents a 72% increase in the number of cases handled and a 42% increase in the number of defendants charged over 2005.**

Prince George's County Totals

<u>Total Cases Handled</u>	<u>Full Year 2006</u>	<u>Full Year 2005</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Federal Charges:	51 Indictments ² /53 Defendants	36 Indictments/45 Defendants	+42%/+18%
FLIP Letters:	<u>+ 11 FLIP letters/11 Defendants</u>		
Total:	62 Cases/64 Defendants	36 Indictments/45 Defendants	+72%/+42%

Federal Indictments – District-Wide

In 2006 the U.S. Attorney's Office's Southern Division, which serves Prince George's, Montgomery, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties, filed 55 indictments or complaints charging a total of 57 defendants with firearms offenses. The Office's Northern Division, which includes Baltimore City and the state's other counties, filed 142 indictments charging a total of 184 defendants with firearms offenses. Approximately 81% of those indictments and 82% of those defendants represented Baltimore City cases.

In total, the U.S. Attorney's Office filed 197 firearms or related charges against a total of 241 defendants in 2006. This represents a 7% increase in the number of cases and a 12% increase in the number of defendants charged with such offenses.

District Totals

	<u>Total Firearms Charges</u>	<u>Percentage Change from 2005</u>	<u>Indicted Firearms Defendants</u>	<u>Percentage Change from 2005</u>
Northern Division	142		184	
Southern Division	55		57	
District Total	197	7%	241	12%

VIOLENT REPEAT OFFENDERS

Maryland EXILE's team of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies is committed

² Includes cases charged by complaint in 2006 and subsequently indicted.

to working proactively to identify the community's most violent offenders and to devise strategies for getting them off the streets as quickly and effectively as possible. To accomplish this goal, we have begun implementing the Violent Repeat Offender (VRO) initiative in Baltimore City and Prince George's County.

Under Maryland EXILE's VRO initiative, teams comprised of representatives of Maryland Parole/Probation, the United States Probation Office, DEA, HIDTA, FBI, ICE, ATF, local police, the SAO, and the U.S. Attorney's Office meet regularly to identify some of the most violent individuals in Baltimore and Prince George's County – including individuals who belong to violent gangs and individuals who have been charged with, or have been suspects in, shootings and murders. Some of these individuals have pending state gun, drug, or violent crime cases. Many are in violation of their parole or probation. Others have no pending charges but have lengthy and disturbing criminal histories. The members of the Baltimore and Prince George's County Violent Repeat Offender teams determine the most effective strategy for arresting and detaining each individual, including violations of parole or probation, aggressive prosecution of pending state or federal charges, or proactive investigations. The team then meets regularly to monitor the progress of each investigation of an existing VRO target and to determine the most effective strategy for arresting and detaining newly identified VROs.

In Baltimore City, of the 20 VROs identified in 2006, 18 have been prosecuted and taken off the streets through a combination of proactive federal investigations and prosecutions, federal adoption of state cases, state prosecutions, and parole or probation violations. The remaining VROs are the subjects of ongoing federal investigations. In Prince George's County, where the VRO program was established later in 2006, four VRO targets have been removed from the streets under this program.

TRAINING

Throughout 2006 and continuing in 2007, prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's Office and SAO, lawyers from the Maryland Attorney General's Office, and ATF agents and Baltimore Police Department task force officers have teamed up to provide legal instruction during the weekly inservice training for all Baltimore police officers. Prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's Office provide similar legal instruction during weekly inservice training for all Prince George's County police officers. The U.S. Attorney's Office also provides specialized instruction to police officers on search warrants and other particular topics.

OFFICER RECOGNITION

At ceremonies held at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Maryland EXILE partners presented EXILE Achievement Awards to 50 federal agents and Baltimore police officers whose outstanding work resulted in significant federal firearms prosecutions in Baltimore in 2006. Awards were also presented to four Baltimore City and federal prosecutors for their outstanding work in Baltimore City firearms cases. A similar program is planned for Prince George's County in 2007.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Taking back our neighborhoods and communities requires more than effective law enforcement. As a result, Maryland EXILE emphasizes community action and neighborhood renewal projects. Armed criminals are not just a police problem; they are the community's problem as well. Only through concerted action by the entire community can we stem the rising tide of violent crime and make a lasting, long-term impact.

Maryland EXILE will continue to help to initiate and fund community revitalization projects in certain neighborhoods that have been hit most severely by violent crime. The initiative will also work with local police departments to promote and expand the use of neighborhood watch programs and other types of activities designed to empower residents to take back their streets from drug dealers and other criminals.

In order to achieve lasting change, we must communicate the goals of Maryland EXILE to our youth. Maryland EXILE partner agencies are sending representatives to our schools to promote the goals of the program and to encourage students to help end the cycle of gun crime and violence in their communities. If you are interested in having a Maryland EXILE representative speak to your youth or community group, please contact Steve Hess at (410) 209-4930 or Troy Williams at (410) 209-4940.

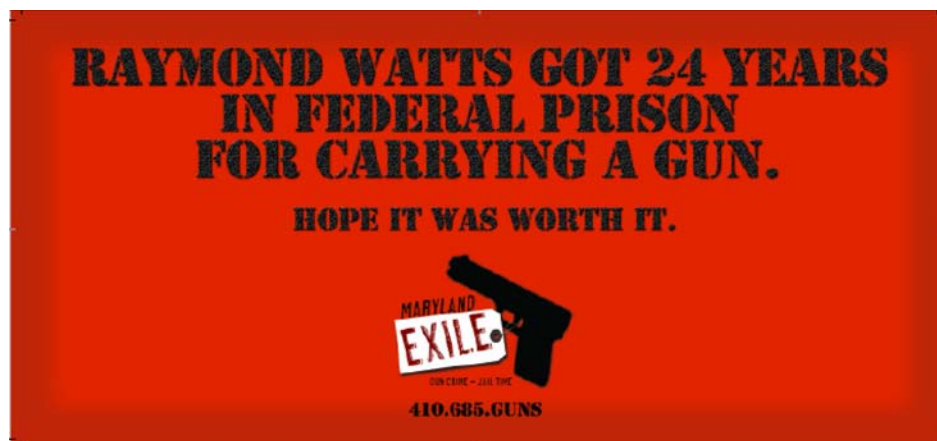
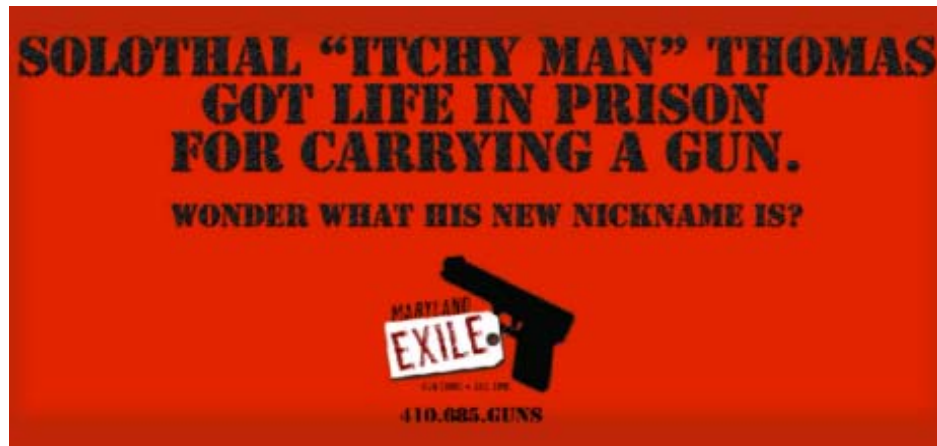
Finally, Maryland EXILE includes a campaign to encourage citizens to report gun crime to police. An EXILE Tipline, (410) 685-GUNS, has been established in Baltimore City to make it easier for residents to report information about guns and drugs to law enforcement anonymously.

CALL-INS

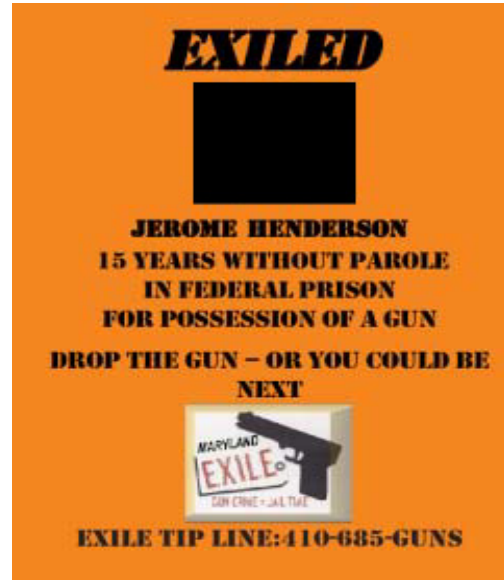
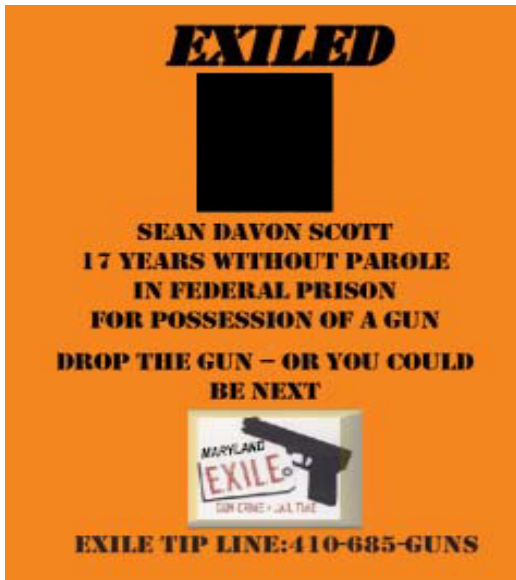
Representatives of Maryland Parole/Probation, the Baltimore Police Department, SAO, and U.S. Attorney's Office have joined forces with community activists and groups to conduct "call-in" meetings for repeat offenders in Baltimore City. Maryland Parole/Probation and the Baltimore Police Department identify felons in the area who are on parole or probation for violent crimes or firearms offenses. At these meetings, representatives of the SAO, U.S. Attorney's Office, Baltimore Police Department, and Maryland Parole/Probation communicate the message directly and unambiguously that these individuals are going straight back to jail if they commit another offense. Representatives of the BPD's "Get Out of the Game" program and community leaders also address the group, offering housing, educational, and job placement assistance to try to help these repeat offenders turn their lives around and to help prevent them from re-entering the cycle of violence in their communities. In 2006, call-ins were conducted for nearly 90 offenders from six of the nine police districts in Baltimore City and more call-ins will be held throughout the city in 2007.

MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS

A key component of Maryland EXILE is an aggressive media/public relations campaign to send a message to criminals and to the broader community that any felon who carries a gun is going to jail – that criminals will do *hard time for gun crime*. The campaign is designed to alert offenders to the crackdown on gun crime and to energize the community to support law enforcement efforts and, in particular, their local police. In Baltimore, the campaign is also designed to encourage citizens to use the EXILE Tipline, (410) 685-GUNS, to report information about guns and drugs to law enforcement anonymously. During 2006, the campaign utilized ads on the radio, on buses, and on billboards in Baltimore and Prince George’s County to get the EXILE message to the public. EXILE television ads debuted in Baltimore in early 2007.



In Baltimore, we have launched a program to place “EXILED” posters announcing lengthy federal sentences received by particular defendants in the neighborhoods where those defendants resided and/or engaged in their criminal activity prior to being convicted in federal court. Here are some examples of those posters, which have generated positive feedback from community members.



In 2007, Maryland EXILE is planning to expand its outreach campaign, including outreach to schools and faith-based organizations. In Baltimore, EXILE will also be participating in the Baltimore Police Department’s “Safe Zone” program, which involves law enforcement efforts and social services directed toward some of Baltimore’s most violent neighborhoods.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Representatives of the partner agencies meet regularly to monitor the Maryland EXILE initiatives, and the principals of those agencies meet on approximately a quarterly basis to review the progress of all aspects of the program.

To read the Maryland EXILE strategies for Baltimore City and Prince George’s County, please visit www.usdoj.gov/usao/md.

GANG STRATEGY

Whether it is the street-level drug gangs that infect neighborhoods in Baltimore City or the more organized gangs such as MS-13 or the Bloods, gang violence terrorizes communities, makes innocent people feel unsafe in their own neighborhoods, and destroys the lives – and steals the futures – of our children.

To stem the rising tide of gang violence and to make our streets and neighborhoods safe again, the U.S. Attorney's Office has developed an anti-gang strategy and has been coordinating a combined federal, state, and local law enforcement effort to dismantle gangs.

The U.S. Attorney's Office uses every available federal law enforcement tool to prosecute violent gang members, including the federal racketeering statute and conspiracy laws. Pursuing violent gangs is one of the centerpieces of the Maryland EXILE strategy. As part of Maryland EXILE, teams of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers are targeting the most violent repeat offenders in Baltimore City and Prince George's County, many of whom are members or leaders of street-level drug crews or other gangs. These teams devise and execute specific strategies to get these violent offenders – and their entire gangs – off the streets, and to keep them off the streets.

Prosecution is an essential part of our strategy. But our goal is not just to prosecute gang members – it is to deter gang violence and to prevent young people from joining gangs in the first place. For that reason, we have joined forces with community groups, educators, and faith-based organizations to spread the word to parents and kids that deciding to join – or remain in – a gang is a matter of life and death. Our clear message is that if you join or remain in a violent gang, you can wind up losing your life, or spending it in federal prison. We also are teaching parents, teachers, and religious leaders how to detect gang activities and membership so they can intervene to prevent kids from joining gangs and to rescue those who are looking for a way out.

FEDERAL ANTI-GANG GRANTS

During 2006, Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, Congressman Elijah Cummings, and U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein announced that a total of \$2 million had been earmarked by Congress for anti-gang activities in the District of Maryland, in addition to \$2 million set aside for anti-gang programs in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. In partnership with GOCCP, the U.S. Attorney's Office coordinated the distribution of the \$2 million designated for statewide use based on an assessment of the gang problem in, and the gang prevention strategies developed by, local jurisdictions throughout Maryland. As explained below, on December 20, 2006, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced awards of more than \$1.5 million to local jurisdictions and organizations in Maryland to combat gangs and gang violence in local neighborhoods, communities, and schools. As a result of these grants, programs throughout the state are receiving funding for prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies.

STATEWIDE GANG SUMMIT

On June 1, 2006, after consulting with state and local partners, the U.S. Attorney's Office held a statewide Gang Summit, which helped identify the gang problem in Maryland and focused on prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies. At the conference, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced its intention to use the special federal anti-gang funding to make grants to government entities and non-profit organizations across the state that are actively involved in combating and preventing gangs. The U.S. Attorney's Office developed a three-part plan to distribute the anti-gang money: one half would be distributed through a competitive process based on a collaborative strategy developed by each jurisdiction; one quarter would be awarded on a discretionary and non-competitive basis to support existing prevention and intervention programs or statewide efforts; and one quarter would be used for witness protection, translation services, training, and other law enforcement functions. GOCCP provided planning grants to each jurisdiction in Maryland to assess the local gang problem and develop a strategy to deal with it. The U.S. Attorney's Office then held regional informational sessions around the state to provide guidance about how best to put together an effective proposal. Fourteen Maryland jurisdictions submitted applications detailing their collaborative strategies to deal with local gang problems. A panel of subject matter experts evaluated and rated each proposal. On December 20, 2006, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced awards of more than \$1.5 million to local jurisdictions and organizations in Maryland to combat gangs and gang violence in local neighborhoods, communities, and schools. In addition, discretionary grants were made to support existing prevention and intervention programs or statewide efforts addressing areas facing significant gang challenges.

GANG-NET

On December 20, 2006, authorities announced that a new statewide law enforcement database, known as Gang-Net, will be implemented in Maryland. The Gang-Net database, overseen by HIDTA (<http://www.hidta.org>), will allow local, state, and federal law enforcement officials to share data on gang activities. By centralizing intelligence about gangs, this database will allow law enforcement officers to identify gang members more effectively and to better understand and respond to gang problems.