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**UPPER MARLBORO MAN SENTENCED TO OVER 10 YEARS IN PRISON ON
DRUG CONSPIRACY CHARGES**

*Part of the Fletcher Drug Organization Which Operated in
Prince George's, Anne Arundel and Charles Counties*

Greenbelt, Maryland - U.S. District Judge Peter J. Messitte sentenced John Vincent Fletcher, Jr., age 64, of Upper Marlboro, today to 121 months in prison, followed by five years of supervised release, for conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine, in connection with a large Prince George's County drug ring led by his brother, Lester Fletcher, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein.

According to the facts presented to the court at his guilty plea, Fletcher, Jr. frequented 9100 D'Arcy Road and 8600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, two of the crack houses operated by the Fletcher organization. Fletcher, Jr. was a distributor of narcotics for the Fletcher organization, and delivered narcotics to purchasers in Prince George's, Anne Arundel and Charles Counties. At the time Fletcher, Jr. worked for the Fletcher organization, he sold powder and crack cocaine and assisted in the distribution and delivery of both powder and crack cocaine. On September 29, 2004, 31 grams of crack cocaine were recovered from Fletcher, Jr. after a traffic stop. As part of the Fletcher organization, Fletcher, Jr. was responsible for the distribution of approximately 5 kilograms of powder cocaine in the period between January 2002 and April 2005.

Lester Fletcher, age 53, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland was sentenced to life in prison and ordered to forfeit \$4.3 million after being convicted of the drug conspiracy and drug and money laundering charges. Seventeen other co-defendants pled guilty and were sentenced.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised the investigative work performed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Prince George's County Police Department. Mr. Rosenstein commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys David I. Salem and Gina L. Simms, who prosecuted the case.