



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan*

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*211 W. Fort Street  
Suite 2001  
Detroit, Michigan 48226*

**CONTACT: Shannon Bass, (313) 226-9530**

**Event: INDICTMENT**

**Defendant: Michael Word (9-8-69, Ypsilanti Twp.)  
Terry Word (6-2-57, Ypsilanti)  
Booker Word (4-14-64, Ypsilanti)  
Johnny Word (11-9-58, Ypsilanti)  
Robert Word (12-10-61, Ypsilanti Twp.)  
Khalis Nathan (7-16-78, Ypsilanti)  
Robert Carl (4-6-63, Ypsilanti)  
Kelvin Patterson (7-15-82, Ypsilanti Twp.)  
Christopher Fairley (10-10-80, Ypsilanti)**

**Date: February 8, 2005**

**NINE CHARGED IN CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY**

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Nine Ypsilanti residents were indicted and charged with conspiracy to violate federal controlled substance laws. Named in the indictment were five brothers: Michael, Terry, Booker, Johnny, and Robert Word, along with Khalis Nathan, Robert Carl, Kelvin Patterson, and Christopher Fairley, all life long residents of Ypsilanti.

The indictment alleges that the charged individuals ran a drug organization that operated in the Ypsilanti, Michigan area from 2001 to the present. The organization allegedly used violence, threats, and intimidation against potential witnesses of their illegal activities.

In announcing the indictment, United States Attorney Craig S. Morford commended the work of the Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Michigan State Police -Livingston and Washtenaw Narcotics Enforcement Team (LAWNET). Assisting agencies include,

Washtenaw County Sheriffs Department, Ypsilanti Police Department and the Pittsfield Township Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Diane Marion.

Seven of the defendants appeared before Magistrate Judge Donald A. Scheer this afternoon for their arraignment and are being detained until a formal detention hearing is held Wednesday, February 9 in front of Magistrate Judge Scheer at 1:00 p.m.. Kelvin Patterson and Terry Word are both in state custody on unrelated charges and will be arraigned at a later date.

A copy of the indictment is attached. An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

