



PRESS NOTICE

**REGINALD I. LLOYD
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 * Columbia, SC * (803) 929-3000*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT PERSON: KEVIN MCDONALD
 (803) 929-3000**

TIMMONSVILLE DUO INDICTED FOR ROBBERIES

COLUMBIA, South Carolina -- United States Attorney Reginald I. Lloyd announced that a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Florence, South Carolina, indicted Richard Eugene Powell, age 20, and Tracey Scott Rich, age 37, both of Timmons ville, for two armed robberies and an attempted armed robbery of local businesses. The indictment alleges that on November 14, 2007, the defendants were robbed the Markette, at 6515 East Palmetto Street in Florence, and Passions Video, at 4713 West Highway 76 in Marion, and attempted to rob Breakers, located at 2819 West Palmetto Street, in Florence. Powell is also charged with being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

The maximum penalty the defendants could receive is life imprisonment.

The case was investigated by the Florence County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Assistant United States Attorney Rose Mary Parham of the Florence Office has been assigned to prosecute the case.

Mr. Lloyd stated that the case is part of Project CeaseFire, an initiative of the United States Attorney's Office targeting gun crimes.

Mr. Lloyd stated that the charges in this Indictment are merely accusations and that the defendants charged are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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