



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Florence Gang Member Pleads Guilty in Federal Court

Columbia, South Carolina ---- Acting United States Attorney Kevin F. McDonald stated that Antonio Andre Barr, age 25, of Florence, South Carolina, pled guilty in federal court to distributing crack cocaine, being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, and carjacking. United States District Judge R. Bryan Harwell accepted the plea and will impose sentence at a later date. Barr faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Facts presented at his hearing established that a confidential informant made a controlled purchase of crack from Barr on May 3, 2005. On January 29, 2006, Barr was involved in a physical altercation with a girlfriend at Club Hypnotic in Florence. After being asked to leave the club, Barr rammed his car into his girlfriend's car and forced it into a fence. Barr then fired several shots in the

direction of the bouncers who came to the aid of the victim. One of the bullets struck the hand of one of the bouncers. On July 12, 2006, Barr and another individual carjacked a man who had stopped at the Sun House convenience store, located at 2352 Pamplico Highway in Florence, to purchase a drink.

Evidence in the case further established that Barr, a ranking gang member, was previously convicted of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature and pointing a firearm at a person.

The case was investigated by the Florence Police Department, Florence County Sheriff's Office, the United States Marshals Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Assistant United States Attorney Rose Mary Parham of the Florence office is prosecuting the case as part of Project CeaseFire, an initiative of the United States Attorneys Office that seeks to aggressively prosecute gun-related crimes.

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