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Baltimore EXILE Partners Announce Results for 2006

First Year of Program Shows Significant Increase in Number of Prosecutions, Longer Prison Terms and Charges Against the Most Violent Offenders

Baltimore, Maryland - Leaders of the local, state and federal agency partners that have joined together to implement the Baltimore EXILE strategy held their first annual meeting today to discuss the progress of the program, the United States Attorney's Office announced.

"Solving the violent crime problem in Baltimore is going to require a lot of effort over a number of years," said United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein. "The EXILE program involves several initiatives that focus on two of the leading causes of gun violence in Baltimore: too many armed criminals roaming the streets when they should be in jail, and too little fear of the criminal justice system."

The first year of the Baltimore EXILE program has been marked by a significant increase in the number of federal firearms prosecutions, lengthy federal and state prison sentences for numerous defendants prosecuted for firearms-related offenses, and successful efforts to take some of Baltimore's most violent repeat offenders off the streets.

In addition, the Baltimore 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.

At today's meeting, Baltimore EXILE Achievement Awards were presented to 27 federal agents and Baltimore Police officers and four local and federal prosecutors whose outstanding work resulted in significant firearms or violent crime cases.

U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said, "The success of Baltimore EXILE depends on the tremendous effort, energy, and dedication of countless police officers, agents, prosecutors, and other law enforcement professionals. We appreciate the outstanding work of these public servants who are working tirelessly to keep Baltimore safe."

Gregory K. Gant, Special Agent in Charge of the Baltimore Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives stated, "ATF and our law enforcement partners are committed to making Baltimore a safer place to live, and with programs like Project EXILE, we believe we can accomplish this mission."

Judith Sachwald, Director, Maryland Division of Parole and Probation, added, "We have many repeat violent offenders under supervision in Maryland; having specially trained parole and probation agents work with local and federal authorities is imperative to stopping individuals who continue to engage in violent and criminal behavior."

"I appreciate the steady leadership and dedication that our local, state and federal law enforcement officers have contributed to our re-energized EXILE initiative and I am confident that our joint efforts will gain momentum from the strength of our partnership," said State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy.

Baltimore EXILE is a unified and comprehensive strategy to combat gun crime that combines law enforcement efforts, community action and revitalization, and public awareness. The strategy is based on a partnership among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, with the assistance of community activists, educators, and civic and faith-based organizations.

Firearms Prosecutions

Under Baltimore EXILE, the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (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

Under EXILE, in appropriate cases, once the USAO has determined that a case is ready to be indicted, the USAO sends a letter to the State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City (SAO) advising that the case will proceed federally if the defendant has not pled guilty in state court to the mandatory five-year penalty under state law by a specified deadline. The letter – known as a "Federal Letter of Intent to Prosecute," or "FLIP" letter – is then shared with the defendant and defense counsel. If the defendant does not plead guilty by the deadline, the defendant is promptly transferred to federal court to face federal prosecution.

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.

Federal Indictments

In 2006, USAO filed a total of 86 indictments and two criminal complaints charging 90 defendants. These cases were investigated by the ATF and the Baltimore Police Department (BPD). Of the 90 defendants indicted on federal gun charges, approximately 42 were referred directly by the State's Attorney's FIVE Unit. The number of federal charges represents a 24% 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, 27 of the total of 36 FLIP letters sent have been resolved through state pleas. Combined with the 88 federal charges and 90 defendants in Baltimore City firearms cases, the USAO has handled a total of 115 Baltimore City firearms cases involving 117 defendants during 2006. This represents a 62% increase in the number of cases handled and a 54% increase in the number of defendants charged over 2005.

In addition to Baltimore City firearms cases investigated by the ATF and BPD, the USAO has also filed 27 indictments charging 61 Baltimore City defendants with firearms offenses investigated by other agencies or that were part of indictments charging narcotics or other offenses. Many of these cases were pursued as part of EXILE's Violent Repeat Offender initiative.

Including the Baltimore City firearms cases investigated by the ATF and BPD, the total number of indictments brought against armed criminals in Baltimore City was 115, charging a total of 151 defendants. This represents an 11% increase in the number of cases handled and a 23% increase in the number of defendants over 2005. Including the 27 cases resolved by FLIP letter, the USAO handled a total of 142 cases involving 178 armed criminals in Baltimore City during 2006. This represents a 37% increase in the number of cases handled and a 45% increase in the number of defendants over 2005.

Violent Repeat Offenders

Under Baltimore EXILE's Violent Repeat Offender (VRO) initiative, a team composed of representatives of the Division of Parole and Probation of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the United States Probation Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the High Intensity Drug-Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), ATF, BPD, the SAO, and the USAO meet regularly to identify some of the most violent individuals in the city – individuals who belong to violent gangs or organizations operating in Baltimore 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 Violent Repeat Offender team 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 – and monitor the status of the pending case or investigation of each such

individual.

Twenty VROs were identified in 2006. Of those, 17 have been detained or are facing pending charges, as follows:

- two have been detained pursuant to revocations of parole or probation;
- three have been detained following convictions in state court;
- nine have been detained based on newly filed federal charges; and
- three have pending charges in state court.

The remaining VROs are the subjects of ongoing federal investigations. A total of 10 VROs are now actively being investigated, with others to be pursued in the future.

“Exiled” Defendants

During 2006, many defendants were sentenced to lengthy terms of imprisonment for firearms possession or firearms-related offenses in Baltimore City and have been sent to, or are awaiting designation to, federal prison facilities outside of Maryland to serve their sentences. The following are just some examples of those defendants (press releases relating to each case can be found on the USAO website at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/md>):

Kendall Alexander, Sr. 27 years North Carolina	David Burnside 15.7 years South Carolina	Corey Grant 20 years New Jersey
Leon Baker 14 years Georgia	George Butler 10 years Pennsylvania	Harold Greene 17.5 years Georgia
Gerald Alex Bigsby 16.7 years Pennsylvania	Tremaine Carter 10 years In Transit	Jerome Henderson 15.3 years New Jersey
Alonzo Briscoe 17 years West Virginia	William English 15 years Pennsylvania	Carvell Larry Jones 8 years In Transit
David Brown 10 years Pennsylvania	Charles Garrison 22.5 years Pennsylvania	Robert Koch 17.5 years Georgia
Donte Brown 25 years West Virginia	David Glasscho 18 years In Transit	John Long 13.3 years In Transit

Anthony Lucas 8 years Kentucky	Jermaine Mobley 12.6 years In Transit	Jesse Robinson 18 years Ohio
Kondwani Martin 10 years Pennsylvania	Paul Padgett 10 years Pennsylvania	Lamont Sanders 26.8 years Oklahoma
Ian McDonald 20 years New Jersey	Jermaine Powell 15 years West Virginia	Sean Davon Scott 17 years Pennsylvania
Maurice Megginson 20 years Georgia	Donald Richardson 13.75 years Pennsylvania	Darius Tanzymore 15 years Pennsylvania
Andre Mills 6 years Upstate New York	Robert Riddick 13.75 years New Jersey	Wallace White 19.6 years In Transit

Training

Throughout 2006 and continuing in 2007, prosecutors from the USAO and SAO and ATF agents and BPD task force officers have teamed with lawyers from the Maryland Attorney General's Office to provide legal instruction during the BPD's weekly inservice training for all BPD officers. The USAO is also providing specialized instruction on search warrants and other particular topics.

Outreach/Media

Representatives of the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation (DPP), the BPD, ATF, SAO, and USAO have joined forces with community activists and groups to conduct "call-in" meetings for repeat offenders in Baltimore City. DPP and the BPD identify felons in the area who are on parole or probation for violent crimes or firearms offenses. At these meetings, representatives of the SAO, USAO, ATF, BPD, and DPP 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.

A key component of Baltimore 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 in Baltimore 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. 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 radio ads and bus billboards to get the EXILE message to the public. EXILE television ads debuted in early 2007.

In 2006, Baltimore EXILE also began 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. The next group of EXILED posters is expected to be disseminated in the next few weeks.

In 2007, Baltimore EXILE is planning to expand its outreach campaign, including outreach to schools and faith-based organizations and call-ins directed to at-risk juveniles. 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.

Officer Recognition

At a ceremony held at the U.S. Attorney’s Office today, Baltimore EXILE Achievement Awards were presented to 27 federal agents and Baltimore Police officers and four local and federal prosecutors whose outstanding work resulted in significant federal firearms and violent crime prosecutions. Awards were presented by U.S. Attorney Rosenstein, Baltimore City State’s Attorney Patricia Jessamy, Baltimore Police Commissioner Leonard Hamm, ATF Special Agent in Charge Gregory Gant, DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge Carl Kotowski, and FBI Special Agent in Charge William Chase to the following individuals:

USAO:

George L. Russell, III
Assistant United States Attorney

SAO:

David Grzechowiak
Douglas Guidorizzi
Traci Robinson
Assistant State’s Attorneys

ATF:

Special Agent Matthew Beccio
Special Agent Alan Boroshok
Herold Carroll, ATF-HIDTA Research Specialist
Special Agent Frank Lynch
Special Agent Ram Mahanand
Antoinette White, ATF-HIDTA Investigative Assistant

BPD:

Detective Edgar Allen
Detective Wesley Cagle
Detective Gordon Carew
Detective Teddy Castaneda
Detective Michael Collins
Detective Anthony Fata
Detective Marjorie German
Detective Michael Glenn
James H. Green, Director of Special Projects
Detective Brian High
Detective Delford Jimmerson
Detective David Knight
Lt. Dan Lioi
Officer William Nave
Major Dean Palmere
Lt. Robert Quick
Det. Warren Stephens

DEA:

James E. Grace, Group Supervisor
Special Agent Michael O'Hanlon
Special Agent Mike Serra

FBI:

Special Agent John Hawkins

Baltimore EXILE is a joint effort by the SAO, BPD, the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the United States Marshals Service, ATF, DEA, HIDTA, FBI, ICE, and the USAO.

**Baltimore EXILE Firearms Cases
Progress Report
January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006**

FLIP Letters:	36 letters total – 27: state pleas 2: pending 7: rejected state plea (27 letters leading to state convictions in lieu of federal indictment)		
Federal Gun Charges – ATF-HIDTA Cases:	88 Indictments ¹ /90 Defendants		
Total Federal ATF-HIDTA Gun Cases: (Referred from ATF, SAO, BPD)	<u>Full Year 2006</u>	<u>Full Year 2005</u>	<u>% Change</u>
	27 FLIP letters/27 Defendants		
	+ 88 Indictments/90 Defendants	71 Indictments/76 Defendants	+24%/+18%
	115 Cases/117 Defendants	71 Cases/76 Defendants	+62%/+54%
Other Federal Gun Charges – Baltimore City:	27 Indictments/61 Defendants		
Total Federal Gun Cases -- Baltimore City:	<u>Full Year 2006</u>	<u>Full Year 2005</u>	<u>% Change</u>
	88 Indictments/90 Defendants		
	27 Indictments/61 Defendants		
	+ 27 FLIP Letters/27 Defendants		
	142 Cases/178 Defendants	104 Cases/123 Defendants	+37%/+45%

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