

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**



**VIOLENT CRIME PROGRAM
2008 ANNUAL REPORT**



MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

March 2009

I am pleased to present this 2008 Annual Report of the work that the United States Attorney's Office is doing, along with our local, state, and federal partners, to reduce violent crime in Maryland.

We are proud to work with state prosecutors and support the efforts of police officers and federal agents who risk their lives to pursue violent criminals and keep Maryland's neighborhoods safe. Our work includes prosecuting dangerous drug dealers; taking on violent gangs; implementing a novel program to help state prosecutors resolve pending gun cases; diverting armed criminals to federal court where they face stiffer sentences without parole; establishing a proactive violent repeat offender program to target Maryland's most dangerous criminals; participating in call-ins to warn ex-convicts about what will happen to them if they are caught with drugs or guns; helping to train police officers; and working to spread a deterrent message throughout our communities.

This annual report includes:

- ✓ summaries of significant federal violent crime prosecutions;
- ✓ statistics reflecting the office's violent crime cases;
- ✓ explanations of other work that we do to deter violent crime; and
- ✓ descriptions of the strategies that we will pursue in 2009.

One of the most significant developments during the past year was the hiring of three Assistant U.S. Attorneys to work as gang prosecutors. Recent cases have demonstrated that a great deal of violent crime is perpetrated by gang members who continue their gang affiliations and activities even while incarcerated. Gang members contribute substantially to Maryland's murder rate as a result of gang initiations, internal discipline, turf battles, witness intimidation and escalating patterns of retaliation. The new federal gang prosecutors work with our violent crime and narcotics prosecutors to investigate and prosecute members of violent criminal groups. We also expanded our Special Assistant U.S. Attorney program, which now includes three Baltimore City Assistant State's Attorneys who spend most of their time on federal cases.

Maryland EXILE, a comprehensive program to reduce gun violence, went into effect in Baltimore City and Prince George's County in 2006, with a specific written strategy for each locality. (www.usdoj.gov/usao/md) A similar program is in effect in Wicomico County (www.wicomicoexile.com), and we are developing a program for Frederick County. In other Maryland counties less affected by gun crime, federal authorities provide assistance to local prosecutors and police when it is required in particular cases.

Maryland EXILE is about deterring crime, not just prosecuting criminals. Drawing on the principles of the nationwide Project Safe Neighborhoods program (www.psn.gov), EXILE involves strong partnerships, effective strategic planning, regular training, community outreach, and accountability. The EXILE partners are pursuing traditional law enforcement strategies along with innovative approaches that are tailored to the challenges of reducing gun crime in Maryland. Maryland EXILE combines law enforcement efforts, community action and revitalization, and public awareness. The success of the strategy depends on a partnership among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and on the dedication and determination of community activists, educators, and civic and religious leaders.

The fundamental principle of EXILE is to achieve the goal and communicate the message that *any felon who carries a gun in Maryland will go to jail*. Honest and law-abiding citizens want safe neighborhoods for themselves and their children, so we must ensure that criminals serve *hard time for gun crime*. We must empower law-abiding citizens who want to rid their neighborhoods of criminals who spread violence and despair.

Making sure that today's criminals serve hard time in jail is only one part of the program. The larger objective is to deter crime so that fewer criminals carry guns tomorrow. In order to deter future crimes, we must focus on the message that we send to potential criminals. Unfortunately, all too often we find that federal defendants were unaware of the likely punishment before they committed their gun crimes. Advertising and community outreach therefore are part of our strategy.

Maryland EXILE incorporates all of our efforts in a coordinated program that addresses prosecution, prevention, revitalization, and education. Our strategy treats the criminal justice process as a continuum rather than a series of discrete steps. Participants take leading roles at different stages: police conduct investigations and make arrests; witnesses cooperate with authorities; prosecutors evaluate evidence and present it in court; juries weigh the evidence and reach verdicts; judges impose sentences; and probation and parole officers monitor felons after they are released from prison. But the best way to reduce violent crime is to employ an overarching strategy that includes all participants in the criminal justice system, along with educators, community organizers, and leaders of faith-based institutions who can help spread the word and counsel people who otherwise might be tempted to commit crimes.

In the three years since its implementation, Maryland EXILE has led to a dramatic increase in federal firearms prosecutions, lengthy federal and state prison sentences for numerous defendants prosecuted for firearms-related offenses, and successful efforts to take the most violent repeat offenders in Baltimore off the streets. In Baltimore, Maryland EXILE has helped produce historic reductions in homicides and nonfatal shootings. Homicides dropped to the lowest level in 20 years in 2008, and shootings continue to decline. Building upon those successes will require constant vigilance by law enforcement and the community.

We hope that armed criminals continue to get the message of Maryland EXILE so that we don't need to send them to prison. With the help of government and private sector partners, however, we hope also to reach a more important audience: the boys and girls who are at risk of following in the footsteps of today's criminals if we fail to change the culture of violence. We owe it to them to alter the incentives that lead some people to choose a life of crime.

I am grateful to the dedicated and professional staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office for their ongoing work to reduce violent crime in Maryland, and to our federal, state, and local partners for the challenging work that they do every day to make Maryland more safe and secure.



Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney

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VIOLENT CRIME CASE SUMMARIES

The following is a brief summary of the indictments, convictions, and sentences obtained in some of the most significant violent crime cases prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2008. The achievements described in the following pages are the direct result of our ongoing partnership with our colleagues in local, state, and federal law enforcement. These cases exemplify their tireless dedication to ridding our communities of violent criminals and gangs. An indictment is not a finding of guilt; an individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at a later criminal proceeding.

GANGS/VIOLENT DRUG ORGANIZATIONS

Dismantling violent gangs and drug crews continues to be one of the primary missions of the U.S. Attorney's Office. Working with our local, state, and federal partners – including State's Attorney's Offices, police departments, the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF"), the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") and the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) – we are aggressively investigating and prosecuting violent organizations and other cases involving acts of violence by gang members. Our goal is to identify and prosecute not only those gang members who actually commit acts of violence, but also those who order that the acts of violence be committed, those who assist in the commission of the acts of violence, those who assist in covering up the acts of violence, and those who recruit new members to join the gangs. As these cases illustrate, we have used, and will continue to use, every weapon in the federal law enforcement arsenal – including the RICO statute and the federal conspiracy laws – to dismantle gangs, from the lowest-level members to the highest-ranking leaders. Most of the cases highlighted here were the product of joint investigations with the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office or the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office.

U.S. v. JERMAINE BELL, ET AL./"RNG" INVESTIGATION

In a series of indictments between October 2006 and February 2008, Jermaine Bell was charged with committing three contract murders – the 2001 murders of Kenyatta Harris, Angelo Stringfellow, and Torrence Johnson – on behalf of his drug-trafficking organization. Bell's drug organization, known as "RNG," operated "shops" that sold heroin, crack cocaine, and marijuana in the vicinity of Reisterstown Road and Gwynns Falls Parkway that generated as much as \$20,000 per day. As part of a violent drug-turf battle between "RNG" and a rival drug organization, Bell issued \$10,000 contracts for the murders of Harris and Johnson and a \$25,000 contract for the murder of Stringfellow. Six other co-defendants were charged with participating in one or more of the murders.

Bell and five of his six co-defendants – Andre Brown, Roosevelt Spann, Jr., James Moore, William Deshields, and Perry Austin – pleaded guilty to murder charges. On December 3, 2008, the remaining co-defendant, Sean Sterling, was convicted by a federal jury of charges relating to the Harris and Stringfellow murders.

On December 11, 2008, Brown was sentenced to 30 years in prison. On December 23, 2008, Bell was also sentenced to 30 years in prison. On January 9, 2009, James Moore was sentenced to just under 22 years in prison. Spann was sentenced to 20 years in prison on January 16, 2009, while Sterling is scheduled to be sentenced on February 19, 2009. The other co-defendants' sentencings are pending. All face a maximum sentence of life in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

BLOODS PROSECUTIONS

In addition to prosecutions of individual Bloods members for gun and/or drug offenses, the U.S. Attorney's Office and its EXILE partners have pursued a number of other investigations and prosecutions of Bloods leaders and members, including an investigation that dismantled the leadership of the Treetop Piru (TTP) Bloods set, the largest Bloods set in Baltimore at the time.

TREETOP PIRU (TTP) BLOODS

On February 25, 2008, an indictment was unsealed charging 28 defendants with participation in a conspiracy to violate the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations ("RICO") statute in connection with their membership in the Tree Top Piru Bloods gang ("TTP Bloods"). The defendants were also charged with related gun and drug offenses. The indictment alleged a series of violent criminal acts – including shootings, robberies, acts of witness intimidation, and five murders – committed on behalf of the TTP Bloods, whose members operated throughout Maryland, including in Baltimore and on the Eastern Shore.

According to the indictment, the TTP Bloods originated from a street gang known as "the Bloods" that was formed in Los Angeles, California in the early 1970s. As time passed, the Bloods spread to other locations and broke into individual "sets." One such Bloods set based in Compton, California was called Piru Bloods, which emerged into a subset known as Tree Top Pirus, whose name derived from a group of streets in Compton named after trees. The TTP spread throughout Maryland, mostly as a result of recruitment from inside Maryland prisons. Over time, a group of female gang members formed a subset of TTP known as the Tree Top Pirettes. Five of the defendants charged in the indictment are women.

As part of the conspiracy, TTP Bloods members met regularly to discuss past acts of violence and other crimes committed by gang members against rival gang members and others; to notify one another about gang members who were arrested or incarcerated; to discuss the disciplining of TTP gang members; to discuss police interactions with gang members; to share with one another the identities of individuals who may be cooperating with law enforcement and propose actions to be taken against those individuals; to plan and agree upon the commission of future crimes, and the means to cover up those crimes; and to reinforce gang rules. TTP members purchased, maintained, and circulated a collection of firearms for use in criminal activity by TTP members. In addition, TTP members committed murders and other acts of violence against rival gang members and imposed discipline within TTP itself, and committed violent acts on other occasions as deemed necessary.

One of the defendants charged was Ronnie Thomas, a/k/a “Skinny Suge,” the producer and star of the “Stop Snitching” DVD and its sequel. The indictment alleges that on February 14, 2008, Thomas called fellow TTP leader Kevin Gary, a/k/a “Red Eyes,” and discussed retaliating against a Baltimore County store owner who refused to sell Thomas’s “Stop Snitching 2” DVD in his store.

To date, eight of the defendants have entered into plea agreements with the U.S. Attorney’s Office, most notably TTP leaders Steve Willock, a/k/a “Chu-Chu,” a/k/a “Kanibal Lecktor,” a/k/a “Screwface DaGra8,” who pleaded guilty on September 19, 2008 to RICO conspiracy charges and was sentenced to 25 years in prison, and Kevin Gary, who pleaded guilty to the same charges on January 9, 2009 and was sentenced on March 27, 2009 to 30 years in prison. In addition to Willock and Gary, the following TTP members have pleaded guilty to RICO conspiracy charges to date: Van Sneed, a/k/a “Skar,” pleaded guilty on June 18, 2008 and is awaiting sentencing; Orlando Gilyard, a/k/a “Magic,” pleaded guilty on July 14, 2008 and was sentenced to just under 10 years in prison; Shaneka Penix pleaded guilty and was sentenced on October 31, 2008 to 10 years in prison; Tracey Whiting pleaded guilty on February 3, 2009 and was sentenced to 21 months in prison; Sherry Brockington pleaded guilty on February 9, 2009 and Sean Frazier pleaded guilty on April 9, 2009. Brockington and Frazier are awaiting sentencing. Antonio Smith pleaded guilty on February 4, 2009 to three counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm and is also awaiting sentencing. The remaining defendants’ charges are pending.

The ATF’s Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation. The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, including Western Correctional Institution and North Branch Correctional Institution, provided valuable assistance during the investigation. Law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland assisted with the arrests and execution of search warrants, including the Baltimore County Police Department, Wicomico County Sheriff’s Office, Washington County Narcotics Task Force, Anne Arundel County Police Department, and Hagerstown Police Department.

U.S. v. PATRICK BYERS, ET AL.
See Witness Tampering, below.

U.S. v. LONNIE BIVENS, ET AL.

On August 12, 2008, Lonnie Bivens, a/k/a “Miz,” Reginald Glover, a/k/a “Chicago,” Shawn Coleman, a/k/a “City,” Terry Armstrong, a/k/a “Buck,” Kimberly Craig, a/k/a “Kim,” Aisha Wright, and Germaine Armstrong, a/k/a “Diddy,” were indicted for their alleged participation in a drug organization that distributed cocaine at street-level shops in South Baltimore. The defendants were arrested in an operation that resulted in the seizure of cocaine and multiple firearms. The charges are pending. The FBI and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JOHNNIE BUTLER, ET AL.

On August 12, 2008, following a joint state-federal wiretap investigation, Johnnie Butler and nine other defendants were indicted for their alleged participation in a violent drug organization that distributed heroin at multiple “shops” in East Baltimore. On September 11, 2008, Butler and his co-defendants were arrested in a sweeping operation that included the execution of multiple search warrants at residences and drug “stash houses” in Baltimore. During those searches, law enforcement agents seized more than \$80,000 in cash and four firearms. The charges are pending. The DEA and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TROY HENLEY, ET AL./FOOT SOLDIERS

See Carjacking/Robbery, below.

U.S. v. DEVON MARSHALL, A/K/A “BIG D,” ET AL.

In August 2008, an indictment was filed charging Devon Marshall, a/k/a “Big D,” Otis Rich, and six other defendants with participating in a conspiracy to distribute multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine in Baltimore. A superseding indictment was later filed adding gun charges. The defendants are alleged to be members of a violent drug organization responsible for the distribution of more than 300 kilograms of cocaine in Baltimore. On January 8, 2009, Marshall pleaded guilty to a drug conspiracy charge and is awaiting sentencing. On January 9, 2009, Otis Rich pleaded guilty to the same charge and was sentenced to 15 years and eight months in prison. The charges against the other defendants are pending. The DEA and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this OCDETF investigation.

U.S. v. WILLIE MITCHELL, ET AL.

On December 8, 2008, following a nine-week trial, a federal jury convicted Willie Mitchell, Shelton Harris, Shelly Wayne Martin, and Shawn Gardner, of RICO conspiracy charges based on their participation in a violent criminal organization operating in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere. Trial evidence established that from 1994 to August 2006, the defendants conspired to commit armed robberies, home-invasion robberies, five murders, and to distribute crack cocaine, cocaine, marijuana, and heroin in furtherance of the RICO enterprise.

The murders for which the defendants were proven to be responsible were the double homicide of Oliver McCaffity and Lisa Brown by Mitchell and Harris on the night of February 27-28, 2002 in the Finney Avenue area of Baltimore; the double homicide and armed robbery of Darryl Wyche and Anthony Wyche by Mitchell and Harris on the night of March 24 - 25, 2002 in the Wabash Avenue area of Baltimore; and the murder and armed robbery of Tanya Jones-Spence by Gardner on June 7, 2002 in Randallstown.

Also in furtherance of the RICO enterprise, the defendants operated a company called Shake Down Entertainment, Ltd., which produced and promoted rap music recordings and performances. Another purpose of the criminal enterprise was to prevent and obstruct the arrest and prosecution of gang members through witness intimidation and disruption of court proceedings. Specifically, Harris wrote rap music lyrics that included threats to cooperating witnesses and discussed the facts of some of the murders. Harris also assaulted a person in jail whom he believed was a cooperating witness in the case.

Mitchell and Harris were sentenced to life plus 60 years in prison, Gardner to life in prison and Martin to over 33 years in prison. The ATF, DEA, Baltimore Police Department, and Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation. The U.S. Marshals Service, Maryland State Police, and several Pennsylvania state law enforcement agencies also assisted in the investigation.

MS-13 INVESTIGATION

On August 23, 2005, 19 members of La Mara Salvatrucha ("MS-13") were charged with participating in a RICO conspiracy. MS-13 is a national and international criminal organization with approximately 10,000 members – primarily immigrants or descendants of immigrants from El Salvador – that regularly conducts gang activities in at least ten states and the District of Columbia, Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador. The MS-13 gang has been functioning in the United States since at least the 1980s. In the United States, the gang originated in Los Angeles, California, where MS-13 members engaged in turf wars for the control of drug distribution locations. MS-13 quickly spread to states across the country, including Maryland. MS-13 is one of the largest street gangs in the United States. Gang members actively recruit members, including juveniles, from communities with a large number of immigrants from El Salvador.

The charged defendants were members of three different Maryland "cliques" of MS-13 operating in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, which worked together cooperatively to commit acts of violence. The indictment alleges that MS-13 members were required to commit acts of violence to maintain membership and discipline within the gang and against rival gangs. The indictment charges that the purposes of the MS-13 racketeering enterprise included preserving and protecting the power, territory, and profits of the gang through the use of intimidation, violence – including assaults and murder – and threats of violence, and keeping victims in fear of the gang and in fear of its members and associates through violence and threats of violence. Specifically, the indictment alleges that from at least 2002 through August 2005, the defendants conspired to commit murder, kidnaping, robbery, and obstruction of justice. The indictment alleges that the defendants were responsible for six murders and five attempted murders in Maryland and Virginia. In April 2006, a second wave of more than a dozen search warrants and arrests took place to continue gathering evidence, disrupting the gang, and prosecuting its members.

Since the investigation began, a total of 50 defendants from at least seven different MS-13 "cliques" have been charged in federal court with offenses relating to their participation in MS-13;

30 of those defendants have been charged in the RICO conspiracy case. To date, 42 of the 50 defendants have been convicted of offenses relating to their participation in MS-13, including 23 of the 30 racketeering defendants. The 23 defendants who have pleaded guilty to or been convicted of racketeering conspiracy charges have received sentences ranging from nine years to life in prison. The remaining defendants are awaiting trial.

In 2008 alone, eight defendants pleaded guilty to or were convicted of racketeering charges, including Israel Ernesto Palacios, who was convicted at trial and was sentenced on November 10, 2008 to life in prison; James Guillen, who pleaded guilty and was sentenced on January 11, 2008 to nearly 22 years in prison; Juan Jiminez-Hernandez, who pleaded guilty and was sentenced on November 10, 2008 to 12 ½ years in prison; Eris Marchante-Rivas, who pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 30 years in prison on January 12, 2009; Santos Maximo Garcia was convicted at trial, but not yet sentenced; Victor Ramirez, who was convicted at trial on November 14, 2008 and is scheduled to be sentenced on February 9, 2009; Carlos Vasquez Martinez, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison on May 5, 2008; and Israel Ramos Cruz, who was sentenced on June 9, 2008 to life in prison. In addition, on October 17, 2008, MS-13 member Jaime Alejandro Alvarado Perez was sentenced to eight years in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. On August 29, 2008, Wendy Garcia was sentenced to three years in prison for obstruction of justice in connection with the murder of an MS-13 gang member by other MS-13 members based on her false testimony to a federal grand jury investigating MS-13.

Three other defendants – Jorge Rigoberto Amador, Antonio Roberto Argueta, and Juan Carlos Moriera – face a possible penalty of death for murder in aid of racketeering and murder resulting from the use of a firearm in relation to a crime of violence.

The ATF's Regional Anti-Gang Enforcement ("RAGE") Task Force was the lead agency in this investigation. The RAGE Task Force includes representatives of the ATF, FBI, DEA, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Prince George's County Police Department, the Montgomery County Police Department, the Howard County Police Department, the Maryland National Capital Park Police, and the Maryland State Police.

U.S. v. MARK OWENS, A/K/A "DOUGHBOY," ET AL./U.S. v. DAVID RICH, A/K/A "OAKIE"

On September 16, 2008, following a joint state-federal wiretap investigation, Mark Owens, a/k/a "Doughboy," Raymond Stern, Jarmaul Edwards, Sharod Harris, Tiffany Edwards, and Sonia Eberhardt were indicted for their alleged participation in a violent drug organization that distributed heroin at multiple "shops" in Baltimore City. Owens and four of his co-defendants were arrested in an operation that included the execution of multiple search warrants in the Baltimore area. During those searches, agents and officers seized just under three kilograms of heroin, approximately \$180,000 in cash, and two guns, including an Uzi. All of the arrested co-defendants have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

In a related case, David Rich, a/k/a "Oakie," was also indicted for his participation in the heroin-trafficking organization. During a search executed in connection with his arrest, law enforcement agents seized approximately ½ kilogram of heroin, approximately \$86,000 in cash, and a firearm. The charges are pending. The DEA and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

PAGANS

On May 9, 2007, Maryland State Police troopers observed Jay Carl Wagner, the president of the Pagan Motorcycle Club in Maryland, walk out of his residence armed with a handgun. Wagner is prohibited from possessing firearms because of a prior conviction for resisting arrest. Accordingly, ATF agents and Maryland State Police troopers obtained a search warrant and searched his home, seizing a total of 19 rifles, handguns, and shotguns, as well as numerous rounds of ammunition. Wagner pleaded guilty and was sentenced on August 8, 2008 to 30 months in prison. The ATF and Maryland State Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

REMINGTON MOB

From January 1992 through April 2005, Christopher Harryman was a member of a drug organization called the Remington Mob, which distributed cocaine, crack cocaine, and heroin in the Remington area of Baltimore. The organization had in excess of a dozen persons working together to distribute the drugs. The members, including Harryman, would travel to source locations such as New Jersey and New York to obtain kilogram quantities of cocaine and heroin, which would be cut, or reduced with adulterants, for street sale. Members of the Remington Mob would also "cook" the cocaine powder into crack form and package and sell the crack on the streets of Remington and other adjacent neighborhoods. Firearms were regularly available to the Remington Mob to protect the drug sales and enforce any disputes with rival drug-trafficking groups. Those firearms included handguns, shotguns, and semi-automatic rifles.

On April 22, 2005, Harryman, Eric Robinson, and a third co-defendant traveled to a residence in the 8100 block of Callo Lane in Baltimore, the home of one of Harryman's co-workers and another individual, and set the residence on fire. The arson was in retaliation for the theft of a kilogram of cocaine from Harryman's apartment, which Harryman and his co-conspirators believed the two individuals had committed. Harryman, Robinson, and their co-defendant initially suspected that another of Harryman's co-workers was involved in the theft. They forced that man into their car, where they questioned him and Robinson pistol-whipped him.

Harryman pleaded guilty to drug conspiracy and arson charges and was sentenced on April 10, 2008 to more than 17 ½ years in prison. On June 26, 2008, co-defendant Eric Robinson was sentenced to 12 years in prison following his plea of guilty to the same charges. Both were ordered to pay restitution of nearly \$175,000.

The ATF, the Baltimore County Police Department Arson Investigation Unit, and the Baltimore County Fire Department - Fire Investigation Division were the lead agencies in this investigation.

RICE ORGANIZATION

On January 3, 2008, Darnell Young was sentenced to 11 years and 4 months in prison for conspiracy to distribute cocaine and possession with intent to distribute cocaine. Young, also known as “DJ Nelly Nell,” worked as a disc jockey at clubs in and around Baltimore City before his conviction on the federal drug charges in August 2007. Young was a member of the drug organization headed by brothers Howard Rice and Raeshio Rice, which operated primarily in the Park Heights area of Baltimore City. The Rice organization distributed hundreds of kilograms of cocaine and heroin over a 10-year period before being dismantled in a series of prosecutions. In addition to Young, 16 other defendants were convicted of racketeering or related drug charges and received lengthy terms in federal prison. The DEA, the Baltimore Police Department, and Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation were the lead agencies in this OCDETF investigation.

“SMACKDOWN” HEROIN INVESTIGATION

From 2005 until June 2007, Calvin Wayne Matthews was the leader of a violent drug organization that distributed a brand of heroin named “Smackdown” around a 5 - 8 block area of West Baltimore bounded by Baltimore Street to the north, Pratt Street to the south, Gilmore Street to the west, and Arlington Street to the east. The “Smackdown” organization set up shops on any given day within that area, including locations in the vicinity of the Hollins Market. During the course of the conspiracy, the organization distributed as much as \$20,000 worth of heroin per day and a total of more than 30 kilograms of heroin. In June 2007, following a 41-day wiretap investigation, Matthews and seven other “Smackdown” leaders and members were indicted and arrested on federal drug charges. During search warrants executed in connection with the arrests, agents and officers seized three firearms, more than \$100,000 in drug proceeds, and more than three kilograms of heroin, as well as packaging material and cutting agents.

All eight defendants pleaded guilty to federal drug charges, as follows: Calvin Wayne Matthews pleaded guilty and was sentenced on October 10, 2008 to 12 years and 7 months in prison; Lennell Matthews pleaded guilty and was sentenced on May 9, 2008 to 14 years in prison; Lionel Matthews pleaded guilty and was sentenced on August 5, 2008 to 17 ½ years in prison; Jermaine Gilbert pleaded guilty and was sentenced on August 7, 2008 to 17 ½ years in prison; Jerome Gilbert pleaded guilty and was sentenced on May 29, 2008 to 17 ½ years in prison; Donita Moore pleaded guilty in March 2008 and was sentenced to 14 years in prison; Bryant Snowden pleaded guilty and was sentenced on October 3, 2008 to 14 years in prison; and Jamal Piles pleaded guilty and was sentenced on August 8, 2008 to 11 years and 3 months in prison.

The DEA's Mobile Enforcement Team and Baltimore District Office and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this OCDETF investigation.

SPECIAL HEROIN PROSECUTION

On January 25, 2008, the U.S. Attorney's Office filed notices stating that it would seek the death penalty in the prosecution of Melvin Gilbert for the murders of federal witnesses John Dowery and Shannon Jemmison; and in the prosecution of co-defendant James Dinkins, a/k/a "Miami," for the murders of Shannon Jemmison and Michael Bryant. Darron Goods, a/k/a "Moo-man," faces a maximum penalty of life in prison for possession or use of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime and for use of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime resulting in death. The indictment charges that from June 2002 to February 2007, Gilbert operated a drug distribution organization known as "Special" that sold heroin, cocaine, and marijuana on the streets of Baltimore. The indictment further alleges that the defendants committed acts of violence to protect the drug organization and retaliate against and intimidate potential witnesses who interfered with drug operations. For example, the indictment alleges that Gilbert knew that John Dowery was cooperating with law enforcement authorities in the federal investigation and prosecution of members of their drug distribution conspiracy. Gilbert and Goods allegedly shot and killed Dowery on November 23, 2006 to prevent him from testifying and providing information to federal law enforcement about drug trafficking by the members of "Special." The indictment further alleges that Gilbert suspected that Shannon Jemmison was cooperating with law enforcement authorities in the federal investigation and prosecution of Howard Rice and Raeshio Rice, who were charged in February 2005 with violations of federal racketeering and narcotics laws. The indictment alleges that Gilbert directed Dinkins to kill Jemmison to prevent Jemmison from cooperating in the Rice prosecution. Jemmison was shot and killed on September 10, 2005. The indictment also charges Dinkins with the November 10, 2005 shooting death of Michael Bryant and the non-fatal shooting of Dowery on October 19, 2005.

In October 2008, co-defendants Tracy Love, a/k/a "Boo Boo," and Tamall Parker, a/k/a "Mo-Mo," both pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances and use of a of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime resulting in death. As part of their guilty pleas, Love and Parker admitted that they were members of the "Special" organization and that they distributed narcotics to customers, collected drug proceeds, re-supplied and guarded the street inventory, operated as lookouts, and banded together against threats from drug traffickers from other neighborhoods. Love and Parker also admitted that the "Special" organization committed multiple violent acts, including a shooting and murders committed to silence witnesses. Love and Parker admitted that on October 13, 2004, Parker shot and killed James Wise in broad daylight in an effort to retaliate against Wise, who minutes earlier had robbed a dealer working for the "Special" organization.

Parker and Love each face a maximum penalty of life in prison on the murder charge and a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and a maximum of 40 years in prison on the drug conspiracy charge. Another "Special" member, Randy McLean, Jr., a/k/a "Blade," pleaded guilty

to drug conspiracy charges and faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and a maximum of 40 years in prison. Their sentencings are pending. Gilbert, Dinkins, and Goods are scheduled to stand trial in May 2009. The FBI and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JAMAL STEWART, ET AL.

On August 28, 2008, Jamal Stewart and seven other defendants – Elliott Brown, Jahvin Williams, Larry Cheese, Walter Taylor, Damien Gary, Eric Gasque, and Timothy McBride – were indicted for their alleged participation in a violent drug organization that distributed heroin at multiple “shops” in the Westport area of Baltimore. The charges are pending. The FBI and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

ARSON

U.S. v. MARCUS CRANDELL AND MASTER GIDDINS

On June 2, 2007, Marcus Crandell threw a brick through the second-floor apartment window of Ronnie Bundy, who had been involved in an altercation with Crandell the day before. Crandell then threw a “Molotov cocktail,” which he had devised using a gin bottle filled with isopropyl alcohol and a paper wick, through the shattered window. When Bundy attempted to escape his apartment, Crandell threw gasoline on him and tried to ignite a fire, but Bundy shut the door, removed his gasoline-soaked clothing, and left the area. A few hours later, Crandell and others kicked in the door of Bundy’s apartment, splashed gasoline around the apartment, and ignited it, causing serious damage to the property and forcing those who were living in the first floor apartment to evacuate the building. Less than three weeks later, Crandell shot and killed Bundy on the corner of Miles Avenue and 29th Street. On April 11, 2008, Crandell pleaded guilty to federal arson charges, and was sentenced on May 1, 2008 to 30 years in federal prison. That same day, he pleaded guilty in state court to second degree murder in connection with the shooting death of Bundy and was sentenced to 30 years in prison, to be served concurrent with his federal sentence. Master Giddins, who purchased \$2 worth of gasoline for Crandell to use in preparing the “Molotov cocktail,” also pleaded guilty to arson charges and was sentenced on July 1, 2008 to five years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JEREMIAH CHRISTOPHER JONES

During the six-month period between March 25, 2007 and August 2, 2007, Jeremiah Christopher Jones intentionally set nine fires within the Springhill Lake complex in Greenbelt, resulting in over \$2 million in damages. Jones used a lighter to set fire to items, including clothes, in concealed spaces because the confined spaces were close to other materials such as wiring, which would continue to burn after he had set the fire. In addition, over the past three years, Jones also set fire to at least three vehicles, a motorcycle, three dumpsters, a trash container and some bushes. On August 14, 2008, Jones pleaded guilty to nine counts of arson and faces a mandatory minimum of

five years and a maximum of 20 years in prison on each of the nine counts at his sentencing on January 29, 2009. ATF, Prince Georges County Fire/EMS Department – Bureau of Fire Investigations; Maryland State Fire Marshals Office; Greenbelt City Police Department; and the Hyattsville City Police Department were the lead agencies in the investigation.

CARJACKING/ROBBERY

U.S. v. ROGELIO ALFARO, ET AL.

On November 6, 2008, a federal grand jury indicted Rogelio Alfaro, Manuel Claros, William Lazaro, and Julio Paredes for conspiracy to commit a series of commercial robberies and brandishing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. According to the indictment, from May to August 2008, the defendants planned and organized robberies to steal money and property belonging to six food and convenience stores located in several Maryland counties. The indictment alleges that the defendants used handguns, a shotgun, and knives to detain, threaten, and restrain employees and customers present during the robberies. The charges are pending. Each defendant faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for the robbery conspiracy and a mandatory minimum of seven years and a maximum of life in prison for brandishing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Montgomery County Police Department, the Anne Arundel County Police Department, and the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TAMAR BALDWIN AND CHI RAY

On February 29, 2008, Tamar Baldwin and Chi Ray ran into a bank at 11704 Reisterstown Road in Baltimore. Ray carried a revolver, while Baldwin carried a crowbar. They ordered everyone to the floor and stated that they would “blow their heads off” if the bank employees and customers did not comply. Baldwin stayed at the front door while Ray jumped the teller counter, pointed his gun at a teller, and demanded money. Ray took money from the teller, and then walked over to another teller, pointed his gun at her and demanded money. Ray took the money she handed him, went back to the first teller, kicked him in the head and told him to provide more money. The teller opened another cash drawer and Ray took the money. A dye pack was included in one of the stacks of cash taken by the robbers. Baldwin and Ray ran out of the bank with a total of \$8,780 and drove off in a minivan. Law enforcement officers who were stationed nearby on an unrelated investigation saw the robbers park the minivan. As the officers approached the minivan, Baldwin and Ray fled. Officers looked in the van and saw that the dye pack had exploded. The weapon used in the bank robbery was recovered from the minivan, along with the dye-stained money.

Both Baldwin and Ray pleaded guilty to their participation in the robbery. In December 2008, both were sentenced to 20 years in prison. The FBI and the Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. GIOVANNI BELL, ET AL.

On June 16, 2008, following a two-week trial, Giovanni Bell, Jude Eligwe, and Richol Griner were convicted of conspiracy to commit bank robbery. Bell and Griner were also convicted of using a firearm during a crime of violence. The jury also convicted Bell of being a felon in possession of a firearm and being a violent felon in possession of body armor.

According to evidence presented at trial, the defendants conspired to rob the Commerce Bank at 350 E. Gude Drive in Rockville, where Eligwe was employed. Witnesses testified that in the days prior to the robbery, Eligwe informed Griner about Commerce Bank's vault mechanisms. On February 19, 2007, Bell and two co-conspirators drove to Commerce Bank where Eligwe unlocked the front door of the bank so the robbers could enter. Bell and the two co-conspirators held the bank employees hostage while they waited for the vault to open. They brandished their weapons and repeatedly pistol whipped a bank employee. Griner served as a look-out during the robbery and more than \$80,000 was stolen from the bank.

On August 29, 2008, Bell was sentenced to life in prison without parole under the federal "three strikes and you are out" law, which provides for a mandatory life sentence if a criminal commits a serious violent felony after he has at least two prior convictions for any serious violent crime or drug offense. Bell had been previously convicted of four armed robberies, three of which counted under the "three strikes" law. The three strikes law has been used only rarely in Maryland since its passage in 1994. Eligwe, a Nigerian native, was sentenced to four years in prison and is expected to be deported after serving his federal sentence. On September 4, 2008, Griner was sentenced to 32 years in prison. The FBI and the Montgomery County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TERRENCE BOONE

On January 15, 2008, a federal grand jury indicted Terrence Boone on armed robbery and firearms charges in connection with seven commercial armed robberies Boone allegedly committed during a three-week period in October 2007. The robberies occurred at four convenience stores and two gas stations in Howard and Baltimore Counties and an auto parts store in Baltimore City. Boone is alleged to have brandished his gun during each of the robberies and fired his gun during two of them. Boone was arrested on October 30, 2007 after a high-speed chase on the Jones Falls Expressway. During the chase, Boone exited his vehicle and fled on foot, tossing his loaded gun over the side of the interstate. Boone was placed under arrest and the handgun was recovered. Boone was sentenced to 45 years in prison on March 27, 2009. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation, with assistance from the Howard County Police Department and the Baltimore County Police Department.

U.S. v. TIMOTHY BRIDGES

On June 28, 2006, a federal grand jury indicted Timothy Bridges on charges related to a series of armed robberies of owners or employees of retail establishments in the Baltimore area.

Bridges and others followed the owners or employees of retail establishments after closing to other locations and robbed them of the day's business cash receipts. On occasion, Bridges would shoot the people he robbed. The robberies charged included a September 2004 robbery and shooting of an employee of Sterling Seafood, a January 2005 armed robbery of the owner of KAF International Food Market, and a March 2005 robbery and shooting of the owner of Global Food Market. On December 8, 2008, Bridges pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 17 years and six months on January 26, 2009. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. KEITH DEBNAM, ET AL.

Between July and August 2006, Keith Debnam, Clyde Ringgold, and Michael Goodwyn participated in a series of armed robberies of cigarette delivery trucks, stealing a total of 667 cartons of cigarettes worth over \$24,500. On each occasion, the robbers threatened the drivers of the delivery trucks with a gun. The robbers were arrested on August 8, 2006 after police received a 911 call describing the getaway car, and the firearm was recovered. On January 23, 2008, Goodwyn was sentenced to 14 years and four months in prison; the following day, Debnam was sentenced to 14 years and 10 months in prison. Ringgold was sentenced on December 20, 2007 to 15 years in prison. Each of the three defendants was ordered to pay restitution of \$6,581.73. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. MARVIN DUCKETT

Between August 2005 and September 2007, Marvin Duckett committed 10 bank robberies and one attempted bank robbery in Baltimore City, stealing more than \$21,000. In each instance, Duckett presented a note that threatened the teller with a gun. From September 2006 until June 2007, Duckett was in jail for a Baltimore County conviction for motor vehicle theft. Duckett was arrested in this case on November 1, 2007, after he was connected to the robberies through his fingerprints and handwriting on the demand notes, and by bank surveillance cameras. Duckett pleaded guilty and was sentenced on June 9, 2008 to 10 years in prison and was ordered to pay restitution of \$21,209. The FBI and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JOSEPH BROWN, ET AL.

On June 20, 2008, Quinita Ennis bought a rifle for her boyfriend, Joseph Franklin Brown, Jr., whom she knew to be a drug dealer and a convicted felon, from a gun shop in Lexington Park. Ennis falsely represented that she was the actual purchaser of the rifle, when she knew that she was purchasing the rifle on behalf of Brown. Brown and another accomplice, William Cordell Johnson, with the assistance of Ennis, planned the robbery of a bank in California, Maryland. The conspirators conducted surveillance of the bank's manager and of the bank itself. On September 24, 2008, Ennis drove Brown and Johnson to the bank manager's residence in Calvert County. Johnson and Brown, wearing masks and camouflage clothing, and brandishing a 9 mm rifle, kidnapped the

manager and her two minor children, and drove the family to St. Mary's County in the manager's vehicle. The bank manager was forced to get money from the bank while the manager's minor son was held hostage. The co-conspirators took \$169,900 from the bank manager. Ennis and Johnson pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery and armed bank robbery and face a maximum sentence of five years in prison for the conspiracy and 25 years in prison for bank robbery. Johnson also faces a maximum sentence of life in prison for using a gun during a crime of violence and 10 years in prison for being a felon in possession of a gun. Ennis also faces 10 years in prison for making a false statement in the purchase of a firearm. Edwin Jonathan Jones pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact in connection with assisting the co-conspirators after the bank robbery to hinder their arrest. The charges against Brown are still pending. The ATF, FBI, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department, St. Mary's County Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Calvert County Sheriff's Department, and Maryland State Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TRACY FLETCHER, ET AL.

Tracy Fletcher, Jarvis Brooks, Eugene Jenkins, Stephen Cure, Eric Thomas, and Charles Harrison were charged with offenses relating to their participation in a conspiracy to commit bank larceny by stealing Automated Teller Machines (ATMs). The defendants conspired to steal several ATMs in various locations in Maryland and Virginia and attempted to steal construction equipment for use in the thefts. Five of the defendants were arrested in March 2006. Fletcher remained a fugitive until June 2006, when he was arrested at a WalMart in Jackson, Tennessee.

All six defendants pleaded guilty. Five have been sentenced. Brooks, Jenkins and Cure were each sentenced to three years probation. In November 2006, Thomas was sentenced to 2 years and 3 months in prison. In October 2007, Harrison was sentenced to 33 months in prison and was ordered to pay restitution of \$229,000. Fletcher was sentenced to five years 10 months in prison on February 20, 2009. The FBI was the lead agency in this investigation.

U.S. v. DONALD GLADDEN, JR.

On August 17, 2006, a federal grand jury indicted Donald Gladden, Jr. on charges of interference with commerce by robbery. The 10-count indictment charged Gladden with 10 commercial robberies in which he stole between \$33 and \$900 by threatening serious physical injury or death to the employees of the businesses. Gladden pleaded guilty and accepted responsibility for a total of 14 robberies committed from June 17 - July 19, 2006, including 10 commercial robberies and four robberies of individuals. On February 7, 2008, Gladden was sentenced to 15 years and eight months in prison and was ordered to pay restitution of over \$3,400. The FBI and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DONALD GRIFFIN AND DARRICK FRALING

On October 31, 2007, at approximately 6:30 a.m., Donald Griffin, Darrick Fraling, and a third individual committed an armed robbery of a male victim outside the victim's residence on

Litchfield Avenue in Baltimore City. While Fraling waited behind the wheel of the Acura he used to drive the others to the scene, Griffin and the third individual accosted the victim at gunpoint. During the robbery, Griffin hit the victim in the back of the head with the gun. The robbers took the keys to a Mercedes SUV and an Infiniti owned by the victim and demanded money from the victim, who handed them \$20. The robbers demanded more money, and the victim told the robbers that he had \$800 in his home. The robbers forced the victim into his house at gunpoint, searched the house and took \$800 found in the pocket of a pair of pants. One of the men took a pair of shoes and the robbers also took a number of cellular telephones from the victim. The robbers drove away in the cars belonging to the victim, followed by Fraling in the Acura. Shortly thereafter, officers saw the victim's Mercedes SUV, with the victim's Infiniti and an Acura parked nearby, and observed three men – including Griffin and Fraling – near the vehicles. As officers approached, the men fled, and Griffin threw a gun into the driver's side window of the Mercedes as he ran. Officers arrested Griffin and Fraling, but the third man escaped. Griffin was found to be in possession of \$800 and the victim's cellphones.

Fraling later pleaded guilty to his participation in the carjacking and was sentenced to six years and eight months in prison. Griffin was convicted after a trial and was sentenced on September 5, 2008 to 30 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. COLLIN HAWKINS

On November 22, 2006, Collin Hawkins used a firearm to commit a carjacking of a taxi driver in Baltimore. Hawkins was arrested on December 9, 2006 after a struggle with Baltimore Police officers in the 5600 block of the Alameda, and was found to be in possession of a 9 mm pistol. In February 2008, Hawkins was convicted of carjacking, use of a handgun in a crime of violence, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. On May 13, 2008, Hawkins was sentenced to 30 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TROY HENLEY, ET AL./FOOT SOLDIERS

Troy Henley was one of the leaders of a gang known as the "Foot Soldiers," which committed a series of armed robberies in 2006 before being dismantled by a series of federal prosecutions. The robberies committed by Henley and his associates included the armed robbery of an Ellicott City Wal-Mart on August 2, 2006 and the armed robbery of a Check Point Check Cashing Store on December 30, 2006. Henley was convicted in August 2008 after a one-week trial and was sentenced in November 2008 to 38 years in prison. The FBI, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore County Police Department, Howard County Police Department, and Anne Arundel County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. RAHSEAN HOLMES, ET AL.

In August 2007, Rahsean Holmes plotted to commit armed robberies of the residences of an Anne Arundel County businessman and an individual Holmes believed to be a Baltimore drug dealer. That same month, Holmes, Terrence Gray, and Antoine Boyce plotted to break into a hotel room in Baltimore in which they believed was hidden multiple kilograms of cocaine and drug proceeds by a drug trafficker. Holmes, Gray, and Boyce arrived at the hotel to commit the robbery, armed with multiple firearms. When police approached their vehicle to arrest them, the conspirators drove away. A 10-15 minute car chase ensued through residential neighborhoods of Baltimore. Police eventually were able to arrest Holmes and Gray near their car. Boyce ran away but was seen hiding in the backyard of a home, near a child's playhouse. Officers recovered two firearms from that yard, one leaning on a fence near the playhouse and the other in the playhouse. Boyce was later arrested.

Gray pleaded guilty and was sentenced on July 17, 2008 to 15 years in prison. Boyce was convicted at trial and was sentenced to 17 years six months in prison on March 17, 2009. Holmes was also convicted at trial and was sentenced on September 10, 2008 to 35 years in prison. The DEA and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation, with assistance from the Baltimore County Police Department and the Anne Arundel County Police Department.

U.S. v. DARYL JACKSON AND DWAYNE SAUNDERS

On July 12, 2007, Daryl Jackson and Dwayne Saunders entered a Wachovia Bank in Essex, Maryland wearing masks and carrying handguns. Jackson stayed by the entry doors, keeping customers from leaving the bank and forcing incoming customers to the ground. Saunders ordered the tellers to the ground. Saunders put his gun to a teller's head and directed her away from the counter. Saunders emptied more than \$24,000 from the tellers' drawers, and the two drove away as the dye packs exploded. A citizen outside called in the tag number of the car to the police. A police officer spotted the car and, after a brief chase, arrested Jackson and Saunders, who were covered with red dye. The vehicle was filled with red dye and the stolen dye-stained money. A loaded .380 caliber handgun and two pellet guns, which looked like real handguns, were found in the back seat. Jackson and Saunders both pleaded guilty to bank robbery and related firearms charges. On January 4, 2008, Saunders was sentenced to 10 years and five months in prison; on January 18, 2008, Jackson was sentenced to nine years in prison. The FBI and Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DONNELL MANN AND JERROD FENWICK

In September 2007, Donnell Mann and Jerrod Fenwick plotted to commit an armed robbery of an individual they believed to be a Baltimore drug dealer. On September 21, 2007, Mann and Fenwick were arrested when they arrived at an arranged meeting place prior to the robbery. At the time of their arrest, Mann and Fenwick had loaded .45 caliber and 9 mm handguns in their vehicle. Fenwick pleaded guilty to robbery conspiracy and related firearms

charges and was sentenced on February 15, 2008 to over nine years in prison. Mann was convicted of the same charges and was sentenced on March 20, 2008 to 20 years in prison. The DEA and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JOEL TRAVIS NUNNALLY

On June 8, 2007, Joel Travis Nunnally entered a Bank of America in Baltimore wearing a ski mask and gloves and carrying a shotgun. Nunnally approached two tellers, pointed the shotgun at each of them, and demanded money, stealing approximately \$2,224. In the same manner, on August 6, 2007, Nunnally robbed a Wachovia Bank in Severn, Maryland. While in the bank, Nunnally pointed the shotgun at a bank teller and ordered him to give him money. Nunnally then approached another teller, "racked" the shotgun in her face, and demanded more money. Nunnally took approximately \$2,816 and was arrested after an Anne Arundel County Police Department detective spotted Nunnally's vehicle. The detective followed Nunnally to a hotel in Howard County, Maryland and when he approached Nunnally's car, saw Nunnally disassembling the shotgun. Also found in the car were shotgun shells, a ski mask, a white plastic grocery bag, the gloves worn during both robberies, and the money taken from the Wachovia Bank. On January 15, 2008, Nunnally pleaded guilty to armed bank robbery and was sentenced on July 9, 2008 to 12 years and 10 months in prison. The FBI, Anne Arundel County Police Department, and Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TAVON PARKER

On September 30, 2006, Tavon Parker and another man entered a BP gas station located in Baltimore. Parker pointed a firearm at the owner and an employee of the gas station and demanded that the owner and employee give them money. Parker and his accomplice entered the operating booth, stole \$15,000, and left the station in a black Kia Optima. Neither Parker nor the accomplice were identified at that time. On October 8, 2006, a Baltimore County Police officer saw a black Kia Optima parked on the street with two males inside the vehicle. The officer conducted a routine check on the vehicle and learned that the tags and the vehicle had been reported stolen. As the officer approached the driver, both men in the car fled. A search of the vehicle recovered a cellular phone, which led to the identification of Tavon Parker as the person who had fled from the officer. Parker was later identified as one of the armed robbers, and he was arrested on October 16, 2006 by officers of the Baltimore Police Department. Parker's vehicle was located and searched, and officers recovered a Magnum revolver along with six rounds of .357 ammunition. Parker pleaded guilty and was sentenced on January 24, 2008 to 13 years in prison. The FBI, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore County Police Department, and Anne Arundel County Police Department were the lead agencies in the investigation.

U.S. v. DEVON PERRY

On February 4, 2008, Devon Perry carjacked his ex-girlfriend at gunpoint and forced her to drive while he brutally beat her. The abduction and beating were captured on Baltimore's Police Overt Digital Surveillance System. Perry threatened to kill the victim, so the woman pretended to cooperate with Perry and got out of the car. Perry also got out of the car. The victim then re-entered the car and attempted to drive away. Perry aimed the gun at her so the victim ducked down while she drove away and hit Perry with her car, breaking his leg. Perry then gave the gun to one of his friends and ordered him to shoot the victim, but that individual left with the gun. On July 22, 2008, after a two-day trial, Perry was convicted of carjacking and use of a firearm in a crime of violence. On December 2, 2008, he was sentenced to 30 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in the investigation.

U.S. v. DAVID SHANTON

On March 27, 2009, Shanton was convicted on armed bank robbery and gun charges. On October 22, 2007, David Shanton robbed an M&T Bank in Hagerstown, Maryland of over \$33,000. He fired a shotgun at a police vehicle responding to the bank robbery, and held a mother and her daughter hostage at gunpoint for several hours while he eluded the police. On November 24, 2007, Shanton used a gun during an attempted robbery of a Susquehanna Bank in Hagerstown. Shanton is scheduled to be sentenced on June 19, 2009 and faces a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison on each of two counts of armed bank robbery; a mandatory minimum of 35 years in prison and a maximum of life in prison for two counts of using a gun during a crime of violence; and 10 years in prison on each of two counts of possession of ammunition by a convicted felon. The FBI and Hagerstown Police Department were the lead agencies in the investigation.

U.S. v. TIMOTHY SIMS, ET AL.

On January 9, 2007, Timothy Sims, Gregory Eason, and another man entered a First Mariner Bank in Anne Arundel County. According to bank witnesses, the men wore masks and gloves. At least one of the men pointed a firearm. One of the armed men dragged bank employees from their offices and into the front teller area of the bank, injuring one victim, and pointed a gun at the employees to insure their compliance. Meanwhile, another robber jumped over the teller line and began demanding that the bank employees empty the teller drawers. The robbers stole approximately \$34,600. The robbers jumped into a waiting car and left the bank. After changing vehicles, Anne Arundel County Police officers set up a road block on Route 2 based on witness accounts of the location of the robbers. When the robbers came within sight of the police, they turned off Route 2 into a shopping center parking lot. The robbers stopped the car and fled into nearby woods with officers in pursuit. Officers arrested all three robbers and the getaway driver. Eason and Sims were located inside an underground drainage system.

Sims pleaded guilty to bank robbery with a dangerous weapon and brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence in connection with the First Mariner Bank robbery and also took responsibility for a June 20, 2006 attempted robbery of the proprietor of two gas stations. On April 11, 2008, Sims was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Eason pleaded guilty to the same charges and also took responsibility for a December 30, 2006 armed robbery of a Check Point Check Cashing Store in Baltimore City. On June 6, 2008, Eason was sentenced to 16 years in prison. The FBI, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore County Police Department, and Anne Arundel County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ANIRUDH SUKHU AND SHARMAN SAID

On December 3, 2008, a federal grand jury indicted Anirudh Sukhu on armed bank robbery and related gun charges and a superseding indictment was returned on January 21, 2009, adding co-defendant Sharman Said. According to the superseding indictment, on November 20, 2008, Sukhu, Sharman and their co-conspirators met to plan the robbery of a Bank of America in Clarksville, Maryland. That same morning, the robbers rode to the bank in Sukhu's pick-up truck and entered the bank, announcing the robbery. During the robbery, the robbers threatened the tellers, and Sukhu allegedly shot and wounded a teller. The robbers took more than \$23,000 and fled from the bank in Sukhu's pick-up truck. A witness called 911 and gave a description of the vehicle. Law enforcement officers chased the robbers, who eventually abandoned the truck in Montgomery County. One of the robbers fired at police and was killed. Sukhu and Said escaped. Law enforcement recovered an identification card in Sukhu's name hanging from the rear-view mirror of the pick-up truck. Sukhu was later arrested at his home and Said was arrested on January 8, 2009. Sukhu and Said face a maximum sentence of five years in prison for the conspiracy, 25 years in prison for armed bank robbery, and a mandatory minimum of 10 years and a maximum of life in prison, consecutive to any other sentence, for using a firearm during a crime of violence. Said also faces 10 years in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The FBI, Howard County Police Department, Montgomery County Police Department, and Maryland State Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

MURDER/RELATED OFFENSES

U.S. v. JERMAINE BELL, ET AL.

See above.

U.S. v. HARRY BURTON, ET AL.

From 1999 until April 2007, Harry Burton was a member of the "Latrobe Organization," a drug and firearms organization that operated in Latrobe Homes in East Baltimore. Burton and other members of the Latrobe Organization distributed narcotics and worked together to promote a climate of fear in Baltimore-area neighborhoods through violence and threats of violence.

Burton participated in multiple murders in connection with the Latrobe Organization. On January 27, 2003, he murdered Maurice “Smokey” Ireland and shot another man. On April 9, 2003, Burton and co-defendant Allen Gill robbed drug supplier Ramon Santana of his heroin. Santana was shot and killed in the course of the robbery. On May 19, 2003, Burton murdered Michael “Mike-Mike” Jones, a drug dealer from West Baltimore, after the two argued outside a local club. In retaliation, associates of Jones’s shot Burton on June 7, 2003, after they saw him at a local restaurant and followed him. Burton believed that Valencia Jones (no relation to Michael Jones), a woman he was dating at the time, had set him up for the shooting and ordered her murder. As a result, Burton ordered co-defendant Allen Gill to murder Valencia Jones on June 20, 2003. In addition to the Valencia Jones murder, Gill also killed Stewart Staggs during an attempted robbery of Staggs’s drug money on November 15, 1999.

On June 23, 2008, Burton pleaded guilty to three counts of using a gun to commit murder in aid of racketeering and one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, cocaine, and heroin. Burton was sentenced to 60 years in prison, to be served consecutive to his 15-year state sentence. On June 27, 2008, after four days of trial, Allen Gill pleaded guilty to the same charges and was sentenced to 40 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this OCDETF investigation.

U.S. v. PATRICK BYERS, JR., ET AL.

See Witness Tampering, below.

U.S. v. EARL DAVIS

In April 2007, Earl Davis was charged by indictment with robbery and use of a firearm in the murder of Dunbar armored car employee Jason Schwindler. According to the indictment, on August 6, 2004, Schwindler exited a Dunbar armored vehicle and walked toward the front door of BB&T Bank at 3505 Hamilton Street in Hyattsville with a canvas money bag containing \$57,118.70 and checks amounting to \$5,594. Two armed men, one of whom was Earl Davis, approached Schwindler and shot him multiple times. The men grabbed the canvas money bag and entered a stolen Jeep Cherokee parked in front of the bank. Schwindler drove the armored vehicle into the Jeep Cherokee, disabling it. Both men fled on foot to the rear of the bank where they pointed firearms at a bank customer approaching her car and demanded her keys. They fled in the bank customer’s car. Later that day, the bank customer’s car was recovered in Northeast Washington, D.C. with the canvas money bag inside. Davis was arrested on October 25, 2004 and is scheduled to go to trial on May 5, 2009. The FBI, Prince George’s County Police Department, Hyattsville City Police Department, and the United States Park Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JAMES P. DAVIS

On May 9, 2007, James Davis and a female walked down a pathway into the Patuxent

Wildlife Refuge in Laurel, Maryland. Davis was interested in pursuing a romantic relationship with the female. After the female told Davis that a romantic relationship was impossible, Davis used a folding knife to stab the female in the back of the neck. As the victim reached toward the wound, Davis stabbed the victim at the base of the victim's throat. The victim fell to the ground and Davis dragged the victim about 100 feet down a walking path. Thereafter, two women saw Davis running, covered with blood. He told them someone had been hurt and pointed toward the area where he had left the victim. Davis also pointed a refuge officer in the victim's direction. The victim was found in a pool of blood. By this time, Davis had fled. Prince George's County Police and the FBI later arrested Davis. On October 15, 2007, Davis pleaded guilty to attempted murder in connection with the stabbing and on January 8, 2008, Davis was sentenced to eight years and one month in prison. The FBI and Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. MELVIN GILBERT, ET AL.

See above.

U.S. v. WILLIE MITCHELL, ET AL.

See above.

U.S. v. LAMAR PRILLIMAN

See Firearms/Drug Trafficking, below.

U.S. v. BRIAN ROSE

On April 1, 2008, a federal grand jury indicted Brian Rose on charges relating to the January 2006 murder of the victim of an attempted carjacking. According to the three-count indictment, on January 5, 2006, Rose attempted to carjack a Mercedes-Benz from Warren Tee Fleming, who was shot and killed. The charges are pending. Rose faces a maximum sentence of life in prison for attempted carjacking resulting in death and murder in the discharge of a firearm during a crime of violence. Rose also faces a maximum sentence of life in prison for use of a firearm during the attempted carjacking. The ATF and Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. STEVEN STONE, ET AL.

See Witness Tampering, below.

WITNESS TAMPERING

All of the Maryland EXILE partners share a dedication to protecting witnesses and a commitment to fully prosecuting anyone who would attempt to harm them. One of the best ways to protect witnesses is to make it crystal clear that authorities will act swiftly and effectively against anyone who tries to harm a witness. As these cases illustrate, we will not tolerate witness intimidation, and we will use the full force of state and federal law enforcement to bring about a swift prosecution and substantial punishment for anyone who threatens, intimidates, or retaliates against any witness.

U.S. v. PATRICK BYERS, JR., ET AL.

On, February 6, 2008, an indictment was unsealed charging Patrick Byers, Jr., Frank Goodman, Steven Thompson, a/k/a “L-Tigga” or “Trigger,” and Michael Randle, a/k/a “L-Killa,” with federal offenses relating to the murder of Carl Stanley Lackl on July 2, 2007. Byers and Goodman were convicted by a federal jury on April 17, 2009 and Thompson and Randle pleaded guilty to their roles in the crime. According to trial testimony, the defendants murdered Lackl in Baltimore County in order to prevent him from testifying against Byers in a Baltimore City case. Byers agreed to pay \$2,500 for the murder. On July 2, 2007, members of the conspiracy obtained a loaded handgun and went to Lackl’s home, where a co-conspirator used the gun to shoot Lackl three times, resulting in his death. Conspiracy members used cell phones to arrange to meet in East Baltimore to receive the \$2,500 payment for the murder. The federal charges on which Byers and Goodman were found guilty include conspiracy to use telephones in the commission of a murder-for-hire; use of telephones in a murder-for-hire; use of a firearm in a murder; conspiracy to murder a witness; murder of a witness; and conspiracy to use a firearm in a crime of violence. Byers faces a maximum sentence of death and a minimum sentence of life in prison without parole. The other defendants face a maximum sentence of life in prison. The ATF, Baltimore Police Department, and Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. MELVIN GILBERT, ET AL.

See above.

MS-13 INVESTIGATION

See above.

U.S. v. LAMAR PRILLIMAN

See above.

U.S. v. STEVEN STONE, ET AL.

On October 23, 2007, a federal grand jury returned a superseding indictment charging Steven Stone and Jessie Dorsz, a/k/a “3D,” with conspiracy to commit witness tampering in connection with the death of David Lee. Steven Stone was also charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine, ecstasy, and marijuana, and Chester Stone was also charged with being an accessory after the fact, assisting Steven Stone and Dorsz in order to prevent their apprehension, trial, and punishment for the murder of David Lee. According to the six-count indictment, Steven Stone and others operated a drug distribution organization known as “B-6” in Frederick, Maryland. On June 7, 2005, David Lee received a subpoena requiring his appearance before the federal grand jury in Baltimore, pertaining to an investigation of Steven Stone for drug and gun violations. Steven Stone and his associates, including Dorsz, suspected that Lee was cooperating with law enforcement authorities in the federal investigation of Stone. In June - July 2005, Steven Stone directed Dorsz and others to kill Lee in order to prevent Lee from cooperating or continuing to cooperate with law enforcement authorities. Lee was killed on July 7, 2005.

The defendants are scheduled to stand trial in July and face a maximum sentence of life in prison for conspiracy to commit witness tampering and for witness tampering. Steven Stone also faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison for conspiracy to distribute controlled substances. Chester Stone faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison for being an accessory after the fact.

U.S. v. GARY WILLIAMS

In October and November 2005, Gary Williams sold cocaine to cooperating witness Robin Welshons. On February 8, 2006, Welshons was shot and killed at the motel where she was living. In December 2007, Williams was convicted at trial of distribution of cocaine. At Williams’s sentencing, prosecutors presented evidence that Williams had murdered Welshons with a .357 handgun to prevent her from testifying at trial. On May 16, 2008, a federal judge found that Williams’s conduct resulted in the death of a cooperating witness and sentenced Williams to life in prison. The DEA, Harford County Sheriff’s Office, and Aberdeen Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

“STOP SNITCHING” DVD

In 2008, the EXILE partners brought federal charges against a number of key figures in the “Stop Snitching” DVD, including the following:

– Ronnie Thomas, a/k/a “Skinny Suge,” the producer and star of the DVD, was indicted in February 2008 on racketeering conspiracy charges as a member of the TTP Bloods gang; those charges are pending;

– Akiba Matthews, the cameraman for the DVD, was convicted of gun and drug charges and was sentenced to 30 years in prison;

– Sherman Kemp, a/k/a “Goose,” who appears prominently in the DVD, was convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced to 15 years in prison;

– Eric Bailey, who appears prominently in the DVD, was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm; those charges are pending.

These cases bring to nine the number of figures in the “Stop Snitching” DVD who have been prosecuted on gun, drug, or related charges in federal court.

FIREARMS/DRUG-TRAFFICKING

Any felon who possesses a gun – and any other person who possesses a gun in furtherance of drug-dealing or a violent crime – risks federal prosecution and faces a long prison term, with no parole, far from home. Here are just a few examples of defendants who failed to heed this message in 2008.

U.S. v. EDWIN ALVANEZ, ET AL.

On October 17, 2006, Edwin Alvanez and Luis Gonzalez sold an unregistered short-barreled shotgun to an ATF informant for \$350. On November 24, 2006, Tammy Lynn Alger purchased a quantity of Remington .40 S&W caliber ammunition from a federally licensed firearms dealer in Kensington, Maryland at the request of Alvanez, who was prohibited from purchasing ammunition or firearms because of his prior criminal record. On five occasions from October 26, 2006 to February 27, 2007, while on probation for a state drug charge, Gonzalez sold a total of 52.7 grams of crack cocaine to the same ATF informant. On one occasion, co-defendant Richard Mejia accompanied Gonzalez. On February 15, 2007, Gonzalez sold a .22 caliber pistol to the informant for \$500. The gun had previously been reported to the Baltimore County Police as stolen.

On March 20, 2007, Prince George’s County Police officers saw Alvanez driving in Hyattsville, Maryland and attempted to pull him over for not wearing his seatbelt. Alvanez eventually pulled over, fled from the vehicle, broke into and ran through an apartment into an unlocked unit, where the resident pointed him out to pursuing officers. Alvanez was arrested. Officers recovered a loaded Smith & Wesson .40 caliber semi-automatic firearm with an obliterated serial number from his vehicle. On April 20, 2007, a Prince George’s County Police officer attempted to stop Alvanez for driving with a suspended license after he saw him driving near Adelphi, Maryland. Alvanez drove away, wrecked the vehicle into a tree, and then fled on foot. He was arrested near a fence. Officers found 6.5 grams of crack cocaine in a baggie in his mouth and recovered a loaded 9 mm semi-automatic handgun from the area of the fence.

Alvanez pleaded guilty to possession of an unregistered short-barreled shotgun and possession of a firearm by a felon and was sentenced on December 15, 2008 to 15 years in

prison. Gonzalez pleaded guilty to possession of an unregistered short-barreled shotgun and distribution of crack cocaine and was sentenced on December 9, 2008 to 10 ½ years in prison. Mejia pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and was sentenced on April 7, 2008 to just under six years in prison. Alger pleaded guilty to her role in the “straw purchase” of ammunition and was sentenced on April 24, 2008 to one year and one day in prison. The ATF and the Prince George’s County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. FRANK BAILEY

On March 16, 2007, Baltimore Police officers conducted surveillance in the 300 block of South Edgewood Street in Baltimore, an area known as an open air drug market, after receiving information that drugs were being sold there by a man who had outstanding warrants for his arrest. Officers saw two individuals approach a house on the block, and saw Frank Bailey walk out of the house onto the porch with a small object in his hand, which he gave to the individuals in exchange for money. During a subsequent similar exchange, officers approached the front porch. Bailey ran inside, and officers pursued Bailey into the house and arrested him. Officers recovered 23 zip-lock bags containing less than four grams of cocaine base, which Bailey had dropped while fleeing, and a loaded .22 caliber revolver from under a couch. Bailey was convicted at trial of distribution and possession with intent to distribute cocaine, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime, and possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon and was sentenced on August 26, 2008 to 22 years in prison. Bailey had eight previous convictions for robbery, assault, and drug distribution or possession. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. CHRISTINE BRZEZENSKI

On April 2, 2008, Christine Brzezinski pleaded guilty to making a false statement in connection with the purchase of a firearm. Brzezinski admitted that she acted as a “straw purchaser” for her boyfriend, who is a convicted felon and, therefore, prohibited from possessing a firearm. Brzezinski admitted that in filling out the ATF forms required for the purchase of a firearm, she falsely stated that she was not participating in a straw purchase and that she was the actual buyer of the firearm. On December 16, 2008, Brzezinski was sentenced to two years probation. As a result of her conviction, Brzezinski is now a convicted felon herself and, like her boyfriend, is prohibited from possessing a firearm. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. SEAN BUNDY AND TYRONE RICH, A/K/A "FORTY"

On May 12, 2008, a federal grand jury returned an indictment charging Sean Bundy and Tyrone Rich with participating in a conspiracy to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin and five kilograms or more of cocaine and with being felons in possession of firearms. The charges followed an investigation in which undercover offers arranged to purchase multi-kilogram quantities of narcotics from Bundy and Rich. On November 24, 2008, Rich pleaded guilty to the drug conspiracy charge and was sentenced to 10 years in prison on April 24, 2009. The charges against Bundy are pending, with trial scheduled for September 21, 2009. The FBI and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. MOISES CASTILLO, JR., ET AL.

On May 19, 2008, a federal grand jury indicted Moises Castillo, Jr., of Tarrant, Alabama and Otis Gomez-Zapata, of the Bronx, New York for conspiring to sell and selling firearms without a license. According to the two-count indictment, between October 2007 and January 2008, Castillo and Gomez-Zapata located buyers for firearms and then arranged to purchase firearms from pawn brokers and individuals. They then met with firearms buyers and sold the firearms in exchange for cash.

Specifically, the indictment alleges that on October 16, 2007, Castillo offered to sell 10 firearms for \$2,600 and to deliver the firearms personally to Maryland from Alabama for an additional \$1,000. Castillo instructed the prospective buyers to obliterate and remove the firearms' serial numbers after their purchase. On October 19, 2007, Castillo met the firearms buyers at Birmingham International Airport in Alabama, then drove the buyers to a federally licensed firearms dealer in Alabaster, Alabama, where he purchased five handguns and ammunition, which he sold to the buyers for \$2,600 in cash. Castillo then drove the buyers, with their purchases, from Alabama to Linthicum Heights, Maryland.

The indictment further alleges that on December 6, 2007 and again on January 17, 2008, Castillo met the buyers at his home and took them to several licensed firearms dealers, where he purchased handguns, ammunition, and AK-47 semi-automatic assault rifles, which he sold to the buyers for a total of \$10,390. The buyers purchased a total of 17 handguns and 5 AK-47 rifles during the two trips.

Both defendants pleaded guilty. Castillo was sentenced on December 23, 2008 to 33 months in prison. Gomez-Zapata was sentenced to 18 months in prison. The ATF and the New York Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. TIMOTHY CLARIDY

In May 2007, Timothy Claridy was observed on several occasions in the 1500 block of Barclay Street in an area known as an open air drug market. Law enforcement officers watched Claridy hand individuals items through the window of his car, in exchange for other items. The

officers believed that Claridy was distributing narcotics in the area and continued their surveillance, watching Claridy enter a residence on Stemmers Run Road. On May 22, 2007, Claridy was stopped as he left the Stemmers Run address heading in the direction of the 1500 block of Barclay. Although Claridy claimed he did not know anyone at the Stemmers Run address, a key recovered from Claridy opened the front door of the residence. Officers executed a search warrant at that residence and recovered a loaded .357 revolver and a quantity of heroin. In addition, officers recovered over \$5,000 in cash from Claridy's car. Claridy was convicted at trial of narcotics and firearms charges and was sentenced on September 24, 2008 to 20 years in prison. Claridy had four previous robbery convictions and a felony narcotics conviction. The DEA and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DENNIS DYKES

Dennis Dykes was in an apartment in Capitol Heights, Maryland when law enforcement officers executed a search warrant there. The search warrant was issued after a confidential informant purchased crack cocaine from a co-defendant. During the search, officers recovered over 49 grams of crack cocaine, baggies and other drug distribution materials, a loaded .45 caliber pistol, a loaded 9 mm pistol, a loaded .380 caliber pistol with an obliterated serial number, two loaded 12 gauge shotguns, and additional ammunition. The .45 caliber pistol had been stolen from a residence in Montgomery County, Maryland on April 16, 2003. Ballistics tests indicated that the .380 caliber pistol with the obliterated serial number had been used during a homicide that occurred on February 12, 2004 in Temple Hills, Maryland. Dykes pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and was sentenced on May 8, 2008 to 10 years in prison. The FBI and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DAVID ELLERBY, A/K/A "CHICKEN," AND JERMALL LILLY

On November 14, 2008, David Ellerby, a/k/a "Chicken," was sentenced to life in prison following his conviction on federal drug charges. According to evidence presented at Ellerby's two-week trial, Ellerby sold more than 60 grams of crack to a cooperating witness on two occasions in August 2006 and had his co-conspirator Lilly deliver a quantity of cocaine to the cooperating witness in January 2007. Also in January 2007, agents and officers executed search warrants at several locations associated with Ellerby. At one of those locations, where Ellerby was found, agents and officers seized, among other things, over 1000 heroin gel capsules, two cellphones, drug paraphernalia, a digital scale, a bag containing almost 70 grams of cocaine, and a bag containing approximately 57 grams of heroin. Ellerby was convicted of multiple drug charges, including conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine and distribution of 50 grams or more of crack cocaine.

Ellerby, identified as a Violent Repeat Offender under the Maryland EXILE program, previously had been unsuccessfully prosecuted for five murders or attempted murders, as well as for multiple shootings. However, because Ellerby had two qualifying felony drug offenses and

was convicted of an offense involving 50 grams or more of crack, the life sentence was mandatory. Ellerby's co-defendant Jermall Lilly was convicted at trial of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and distribution of cocaine and was later sentenced to 12 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ROBERTO GARCIA

Roberto Garcia sold cocaine to undercover Montgomery County Police detectives on four occasions in 2006. Garcia was arrested on September 20, 2006 when he entered the parking lot of a 7-11 located on New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland to sell cocaine to an undercover detective on a fifth occasion. Shortly before his arrest, Garcia swallowed an "eight ball" of crack – approximately 3.5 grams – for which he had to be admitted to the hospital. Officers recovered an additional 1.32 grams of cocaine and \$1,040 from Garcia. During a subsequent search of Garcia's residence, officers seized a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun, nine rounds of ammunition, and \$4,830 in cash. Garcia pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a gun and ammunition and to distributing cocaine and was sentenced on August 18, 2008 to 15 years in prison. Garcia had two previous convictions for robbery with a dangerous weapon and a conviction for possession with intent to distribute marijuana. The ATF, the Montgomery County Police Department, and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. MAURICE GORDON-BEY

On November 28, 2007, Baltimore Police officers were working in the 2800 block of Liberty Heights Avenue in Baltimore, an area known to have a high incidence of drug sales. Late that evening, agents observed Maurice Gordon-Bey drive into the parking lot of a gas station. He got out of the car, opened the back door, and reached inside the passenger compartment. After about 30-45 seconds, Gordon-Bey closed the rear door and got back into the driver's seat. A few minutes later, a Cadillac sedan entered the same parking lot and the driver got out of his car to meet with Gordon-Bey. The officers suspected that they were observing a drug transaction and approached Gordon-Bey, who began to back away from the car. When officers shined a flashlight into the Gordon-Bey's car, they observed multiple plastic bags containing a tan powder, suspected to be heroin. Gordon-Bey was placed under arrest. The car was searched and officers recovered three plastic bags containing a total of 100 capsules – a total of approximately 25 grams – of heroin from the back seat. A loaded .357 caliber handgun was also found in the console of the car. Gordon-Bey pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced on November 21, 2008 to 15 years in prison. Gordon-Bey had four previous state narcotics and violent crime convictions. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DWIGHT HICKMAN, A/K/A “MONSTER”

From May 2005 to January 2007, Dwight Hickman, a/k/a “Monster,” conspired with others to distribute crack cocaine in the Westport section of Baltimore. Hickman and his conspirators used his home on Sidney Avenue in Baltimore and other locations in and around Baltimore to store crack cocaine for distribution. On June 7, 2006, Baltimore police searched Hickman’s residence and recovered 40 small glass containers with marijuana; two plastic bags with approximately 58.78 grams of crack cocaine; two clear plastic bags each containing 50 orange zip-lock bags with crack cocaine; a plastic bag containing 13 zip-lock bags with crack cocaine; numerous empty packaging materials; and a digital scale with cocaine residue. Hickman pleaded guilty to drug charges and was sentenced on January 2, 2008 to 25 years in prison. Hickman was identified as a Violent Repeat Offender under Maryland EXILE. The FBI and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ANTOINE HUDSON

On April 25, 2007, plainclothes Baltimore Police officers patrolling in an unmarked vehicle in the area of the 700 block of North Belnord Avenue saw Antoine Hudson exit the passenger side of a green minivan, placing his hand on his front waistband area, which was bulging, as if he was supporting a handgun. One officer exited the unmarked vehicle and began to approach Hudson, who fled through the alley, throwing a black handgun to the ground as he ran. The officer immediately recovered the gun and continued to pursue Hudson, apprehending him in the 600 block of North Belnord Avenue. The black handgun was a loaded revolver with an obliterated serial number. Hudson later pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced on April 24, 2008 to the statutory maximum of 10 years in prison. As part of his plea agreement, Hudson also agreed to plead guilty to state charges of attempted first degree murder, use of a firearm in commission of a crime of violence, and possession of a controlled dangerous substance in two cases in Baltimore City Circuit Court, arising from Hudson’s participation in a February 26, 2007 shooting in the 2300 block of Jefferson Street. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation, with assistance from the Baltimore County Police Department.

U.S. v. SHAMANE JAMES

On September 5, 2007, Prince George’s County Police officers investigating drug distribution activity at a home in Hyattsville, Maryland executed a search warrant at the home and discovered Shamane James sleeping in a basement bedroom. During searches of the house and a shed in the backyard, officers recovered a total of approximately 413 grams of crack cocaine and more than one kilogram of cocaine, packaged for distribution, a digital scale with cocaine residue, an electronic money counter, approximately \$3,400 in cash, and a loaded 9 mm pistol and 14 rounds of ammunition. James was convicted at trial of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and powder cocaine, distribution of crack cocaine, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking offense, and possession of a firearm by a felon and was sentenced on November 3, 2008 to 25 years in prison. The ATF, DEA, and the Prince

George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. SHERMAN KEMP, A/K/A "GOOSE"

In July 2007, an indictment was unsealed charging Sherman Kemp with conspiracy to distribute cocaine. According to the four-count indictment, Kemp conspired with others to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine from March to June 2007. Kemp was also charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine, possession of a gun in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. On July 17, 2008, Kemp pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced on October 10, 2008 to 15 years in prison. The DEA, FBI, the Baltimore Police Department, and Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DANIEL LAUREY

On November 2, 2006, Baltimore Police executed a search warrant at Daniel Laurey's home on Violet Avenue in Baltimore after a confidential source had previously purchased cocaine from Laurey at that location. During the search, officers recovered, among other things, over 280 grams of crack cocaine, over 200 grams of marijuana, and a .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun, along with a digital scale used for weighing drugs. Laurey pleaded guilty and was sentenced on February 29, 2008 to just under 22 years in prison. Laurey had prior convictions for possession with intent to distribute drugs, assault with intent to murder, and assault. The DEA and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DELANO MAITH

On June 12, 2007, Baltimore City 911 operators received a call for a domestic assault in which a man had pointed a gun at a woman's face. Officers responded and saw a man who matched the description they had been given, later identified as Delano Maith, leaving the apartment building. As officers exited their vehicles and approached, Maith grabbed his front waistband area and began to run. After a brief chase, Maith was apprehended and a loaded handgun was recovered from his front waistband. Maith pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced on October 3, 2008 to 15 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ROBERT MARBURY

On May 10, 2007, Prince George's County Police officers searched Robert Marbury's residence and seized 22.6 grams of cocaine on his person. Marbury directed officers to the basement area, where they recovered an additional 97 grams of crack cocaine, nearly 250 grams of marijuana, and a loaded .32 caliber revolver, along with baggies and razor blades. Marbury pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and was sentenced on April 28, 2008 to just under 22 years prison. Marbury had five previous narcotics convictions. The

ATF and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. MICHAEL MARTIN

On April 10, 2007, Baltimore Police officers executed search warrants at Michael Martin's residence and on his vehicle. During a search of the vehicle, officers recovered a black bag containing two loaded handguns and a third handgun laying against the black bag. Officers also seized 148 grams of crack cocaine, packaged for street-level sales, from the center console of the car. Martin pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession in a firearm and was sentenced on June 26, 2008 to 15 years and eight months in prison. Martin had two previous drug convictions and a conviction for assault with intent to murder. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. AKIBA MATTHEWS

On November 15, 2007, an anonymous tip from a citizen reported that a man in a white van was selling drugs in the vicinity of South Collins and Frederick Avenues. Baltimore Police officers responded to that location and observed a man, later identified as Akiba Matthews, involved in a drug transaction. A search of Matthews's vehicle upon his arrest recovered 58 gel caps of heroin and a loaded handgun. Matthews, who was the cameraman for and appeared in portions of the first "Stop Snitching" DVD, was convicted of possession with intent to distribute heroin, possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, and possession of a gun by a convicted felon and was sentenced on August 20, 2008 to 30 years in prison. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. AARON MCCOWN

On September 22, 2007, a series of youth football games were taking place at Aspen Hill Park in Montgomery County, Maryland. After some inappropriate conduct during one of the games, the referee terminated the game early. Aaron McCown, who was a coach for one of the teams involved, threatened the referee and then proceeded to the parking lot, where he retrieved a black bag containing a .45 caliber pistol, loaded with four rounds of ammunition. McCown walked back onto the field toward the referee, holding the bag containing the weapon. When police arrived on the scene, McCown returned to the parking lot, placed the black bag containing the firearm and ammunition into the bed of a pickup truck, and fled the area. Police officers located the black bag containing the loaded gun in the bed of the pickup truck. McCown pleaded guilty to firearms charges and was sentenced on May 12, 2008 to 6½ years in prison. The ATF and the Maryland National Capital Park Police - Montgomery County Division were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. MICHAEL MINOR

On March 23, 2007, Prince George's County Police officers were patrolling the area of Barnabas Road in Temple Hills, Maryland and noticed a group of people, which included Michael Minor, gathered in the parking lot of a restaurant. Officers approached Minor and the other individuals and a canine unit was called to determine whether controlled substances were present in a number of vehicles parked in the lot, including Minor's pick-up truck. After the canine alerted to the presence of narcotics in the pick-up truck, officers searched the truck, locating a hidden compartment which stored several bags containing approximately 577 grams of powder cocaine and 493 grams of marijuana, two electronic scales used to weigh the drugs, 11 bundles of cash totaling \$37,933, and a 9 mm semi-automatic weapon. Minor pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute cocaine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking offense and was sentenced on May 19, 2008 to 10 years in prison. The ATF and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. THEODORE PARKER, JR.

On May 3, 2007, while patrolling in the 1600 block of Normal Avenue in Baltimore, Baltimore Police officers observed Theodore Parker, Jr. walking as if concealing a large object in the waistband of his pants. As they approached Parker, the officers saw Parker walk onto a porch where three or four others were present, remove a black object from his waistband and bend down. At that time, someone yelled "5-0," alerting that police officers were approaching. The individuals on the porch and Parker walked away. The police apprehended Parker and searched the porch, where they recovered a loaded semi-automatic pistol. Parker pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced on August 29, 2008 to 15 years in prison. Parker had three prior felony drug convictions. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. LAMAR PRILLIMAN

On June 28, 2006, a federal grand jury indicted Lamar Prilliman on drug conspiracy and murder charges. The indictment alleged that between 1998 and 2006, Lamar Prilliman operated drug shops in Baltimore that distributed large quantities of heroin, cocaine, and crack cocaine. The indictment charged that on November 16, 2000, Prilliman arranged for and participated in the murder of one of his workers, Sharon Bagley, because he believed that Bagley would testify that she was selling crack cocaine for him. Prilliman was taken into federal custody in August 2006. Prilliman later pleaded guilty to drug conspiracy charges. According to his guilty plea, Prilliman directed drug users to sell crack cocaine in the area of the 1800 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, the 1600 block of Druid Hill Avenue, and the 500 block of Wilson Street in Baltimore. Prilliman or one of his street lieutenants would oversee the daily operation of the street level distribution, and Prilliman collected the proceeds at the end of the day's distribution. During the period of the conspiracy, Prilliman and his co-conspirators distributed over 1.5 kilograms of cocaine base. On February 1, 2008, Prilliman was sentenced to 21 years in prison. The DEA, ATF, and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. GARFIELD REDD

On October 22, 2006, Baltimore Police officers working in the 500 block of Gold Street noticed two large groups congregating. Two officers approached one group, identified themselves as police officers, and inquired why the men were there. Garfield Redd, who was seated on some steps nearby, got up and began to walk briskly away from where the officers were speaking to the other individuals. Another officer, who was in the street, saw Redd get off the steps and could see that Redd had a gun in his hand. As Redd approached the officer, he tossed the gun under the rear bumper of a parked car and began walking in a different direction. The officer repeatedly ordered Redd to get on the ground, which he eventually did. The handgun was recovered from under the vehicle and Redd was arrested. Redd was convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced on November 21, 2008 to 20 years in prison. Redd had five previous state convictions, including four convictions on assault charges. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. KEVIN ROBINSON AND SHANAY JOHNSON

On February 24, 2007, Kevin Robinson, a convicted felon, used his girlfriend, Shanay Johnson, as a "straw purchaser" of a firearm. At Robinson's direction, Johnson inquired about purchasing a .40 caliber firearm from a Baltimore County firearms dealer and ultimately purchased a Glock 9 mm handgun. On March 7, 2007, when Johnson and Robinson arrived to complete the final purchase paperwork for the firearm, officers followed the pair to their apartment and observed Robinson carry the firearm into the apartment. A few minutes later, Robinson left the apartment and drove away. He was stopped by police because his driver's license had been revoked. After giving the officers a false name and address, Robinson was arrested and a search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of just under 2 grams of crack cocaine, packaged in small ziplock bags. During a subsequent search of their apartment, officers found a bag in a bedroom closet which contained a 12-gauge shotgun and the Glock 9 mm handgun purchased from the Baltimore County dealer. Officers also recovered various rounds of ammunition and a bullet-proof vest.

Robinson pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced on August 15, 2008 to 10 years in prison. Johnson pleaded guilty to making false statements to acquire a firearm and was sentenced to one year of probation, with six months to be served on home detention with electronic monitoring. As a result of her conviction, Johnson is now a convicted felon herself and, like Robinson, is prohibited from possessing a firearm. The ATF and the Baltimore County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. ALEXANDER ROSE, ET AL.

On July 23, 2007, Alexander Rose, Carlos Segura, Jeremy Scales, Antoine Thomas, and Gerald Thomas, Jr. were indicted for unlawfully dealing in firearms in connection with their sale of 11 firearms to an ATF informant from January to May 2007. The transactions took place in or near an apartment in Prince George's County, Maryland. Gerald Thomas and Scales were also

charged with being felons in possession of a firearm. Gerald Thomas and Rose were also charged with unlawful possession of an unregistered firearm. The defendants have all pleaded guilty. Gerald Thomas was sentenced to 12 years in prison; Jeremy Scales was sentenced to seven years in prison; Alexander Rose was sentenced to 4 ½ years in prison; and Antoine Thomas and Carlos Segura were each sentenced to two years in prison. The ATF and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. JOHN FRANK TERRANOVA, ET AL.

On August 18, 2007, the Maryland State Police received reports that John Frank Terranova had firearms that had been purchased for him by other people. Officers went to Terranova's residence and while awaiting a search warrant, saw a 1978 Chevrolet van parked in the driveway of the residence and observed in plain view the barrels of firearms inside the vehicle. Search warrants were obtained for the residence and for the vehicle on that day. Inside the residence, officers found two large gun safes in the basement containing gun lock keys, firearms papers, ammunition, and other items. Terranova's van was later searched and from inside the vehicle, officers recovered more than 100 firearms, including rifles and handguns, ammunition, magazines, a United States Marshals Service badge, and a Montgomery County Police officer's badge.

While the officers were awaiting the arrival of a search warrant for the Terranova residence, they saw Terranova's neighbor, Jorge Luis Brown-Davila, acting suspiciously near the residence, and officers approached him. During a subsequent interview, Brown-Davila told officers that he had purchased approximately 40 firearms with, and on behalf of, Terranova, sometimes with his own money, but usually with money provided by Terranova.

Terranova was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in a criminal complaint dated April 24, 2008. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison at his sentencing. Brown-Davila was charged with making false statements in connection with the acquisition of firearms. He pleaded guilty and is also awaiting sentencing. The ATF, the Baltimore County Police Department, and the Maryland State Police were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. BRIAN TOLES

On January 12, 2007, a Prince George's County Police officer stopped a car driven by Brian Toles. Upon approaching the vehicle, the officer smelled a strong odor of marijuana. Officers searched the vehicle and located a hidden compartment in the center console. In that hidden compartment, officers recovered approximately 15 grams of marijuana, a glass bottle containing approximately 3.5 grams of phencyclidine, commonly known as PCP, and a loaded .357 semi-automatic handgun containing one bullet in the chamber and 12 additional rounds of ammunition in the magazine, as well as a 30-round extended clip which contained 16 rounds of ammunition. Toles pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute phencyclidine and

possession of a firearm by a felon and was sentenced on March 17, 2008 to 15 years and eight months in prison. Toles had two previous narcotics convictions and a conviction for assault. The ATF and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. MICHAEL TOLLEY

On November 13, 2008, a federal grand jury indicted Michael Tolley on charges of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition, possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number, and possession of a machine gun. The indictment alleges that Tolley illegally possessed one Intratec Model Tec9 9 mm semi-automatic pistol, one Colt .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol with an obliterated serial number; one Winchester .270 caliber rifle, one Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun, one Ruger .22 caliber rifle, one Bushmaster .223 caliber machine gun, and approximately 271 rounds of .223 caliber ammunition. According to the four-count indictment and other court documents, late on September 11, 2008, an officer from the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office was responding to a call concerning automatic weapon fire in the area of an auto dealer and observed a yellow Hummer parked on the side of the road in the vicinity of the dealership. The officer followed the yellow Hummer onto eastbound Route 50 and executed a traffic stop. When the officer walked up to the vehicle he observed a black assault rifle on the floor by the feet of the rear seat passenger, later identified as Tolley. Recovered from the Hummer were two fully automatic 223/556 caliber assault rifles along with approximately 280 rounds of ammunition, six 30 round magazines, one 20 round magazine, and 38 spent cartridges found throughout the front and back seat of the Hummer. The second assault rifle was found behind Tolley and the barrel was still warm to the touch, indicating that it had recently been fired. Investigation revealed four vehicles at the car dealership with bullet holes in them and broken windows from bullets, with approximately \$15,000 in damage to the vehicles. Tolley faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison on each count. The charges are pending. The ATF and the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. LAMONT TOYER

On June 5, 2007, Lamont Toyer got into a heated argument with two women at his residence. During the argument, Toyer threatened one of the women with a handgun which he displayed in the waistband of his pants. The woman called police to report the threat and when police arrived at the residence, Toyer was found in the basement. After initially refusing the officers' requests to come upstairs, Toyer did so and was detained. Police located a .40 caliber handgun and a 9 mm handgun hidden in a ceiling tile in the basement. Both guns were loaded, had their safeties in the "off" position, and had a round of ammunition in the chamber. When the officers brought the guns upstairs, the victim recognized the .40 caliber firearm as the one that Toyer had used to threaten her. Toyer pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced on August 28, 2008 to 17½ years in prison. Toyer had prior convictions for possession with intent to distribute cocaine, possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, and assault. The ATF and the Prince George's County Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. KENDALL WATKINS

On December 9, 2005, a Baltimore Police officer observed Watkins smoking a marijuana cigar as Watkins rode in a car approaching the intersection of Hilton and North Avenue in Baltimore. As officers approached the car, they noticed the strong odor of marijuana. Officers saw Watkins grab at something near his waist. Believing Watkins to be armed, officers detained him and recovered a loaded 9 mm handgun from his waistband area. Officers searched his car and found the marijuana cigar, as well as four plastic bags containing approximately three ounces of marijuana. Watkins was convicted at trial of being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced on December 15, 2008 to 19 years and seven months in prison. Watkins had four previous convictions for conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, attempted second-degree murder, possession of a concealed deadly weapon, and first degree assault. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. LECESTOR WHITE, JR.

On February 5, 2007, Baltimore Police officers were patrolling and saw Leicester White, Jr. and several other men standing at the corner of East Oliver Street and North Montford Street, in Baltimore. Officers observed White pull up the front of his sweatshirt, revealing a handgun. White noticed the officers and walked away. The officers stopped and exited their vehicle, pulled their weapons, and ordered White to stop. White began to run but was arrested after a brief chase. During the arrest, the handgun – a loaded 380 caliber semi-automatic pistol – fell from White's pants. White pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced on September 19, 2008 to 15 years in prison. White had three previous convictions for narcotics violations. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

U.S. v. DAVID WILLIAMS

On the evening of October 24, 2006, a Baltimore Police detective was driving an unmarked police vehicle near the 1100 block of North Fulton Avenue and saw a group of males running northbound on Fulton Avenue, chasing another person, who was later identified as David Williams. The detective drove past the group to determine if Williams was in need of protection and as he passed Williams, he observed a large-frame silver pistol in Williams's right hand. The detective approached Williams at the corner of Lorman Street and North Fulton Avenue, but could no longer see the gun. The detective ordered Williams to stop and keep his hands in view, but Williams continued running and entered an alley, where he was cornered. The detective ordered Williams to lay down on the ground, but instead Williams removed a loaded silver pistol with his left hand from the waist area of his pants, and threw it to the ground. Williams was apprehended. As Williams was being handcuffed, the group of males who had been chasing Williams arrived. One of those men told police that Williams had robbed him at gunpoint of \$100 and had hit him in the face with the gun. The man had a small cut on the left side of his face. Officers searched Williams and recovered \$210 from him. The victim identified Williams and also recognized the silver pistol as the gun Williams used in the robbery.

Williams was convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm after a one-day trial and was sentenced on December 18, 2008 to just under 22 years in prison. Williams had five previous convictions for robbery, assault, and drug distribution. The ATF and the Baltimore Police Department were the lead agencies in this investigation.

MARYLAND EXILE STRATEGY

In early 2006, the U.S. Attorney's Office and its local, state, and federal partners began implementing Maryland EXILE, a unified and comprehensive strategy to combat gun crime that combines law enforcement efforts, community action and revitalization, and public awareness. The success of this strategy depends on a partnership – a true team effort – among our local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and on the dedication and determination of community activists, educators, and civic and faith-based organizations.

The Maryland EXILE partners include the State's Attorney's Offices, local Police Departments, the Division of Parole and Probation of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Maryland Parole/Probation), the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), the U.S. Attorney's Office, the ATF, the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug-Trafficking Area (HIDTA), the DEA, the FBI, ICE, and the United States Marshals Service.



The components of the Maryland EXILE law enforcement strategy for Baltimore City and Prince George's County are designed to focus law enforcement resources on the most violent individuals and most violent geographic areas in those jurisdictions and to achieve the goal of arresting and detaining violent offenders as quickly as possible while also ensuring that violent organizations and groups are permanently dismantled.

The fundamental principle of Maryland EXILE is that ***any felon who carries a gun in Maryland is going to jail***. By successfully executing the Maryland EXILE strategy, we will empower law-abiding citizens to rid their neighborhoods of criminals who spread violence and despair and to reclaim their communities.

The primary components of the Maryland EXILE strategy are as follows:

- coordinating state and federal prosecutions of firearms cases;
- pursuing gangs and the most violent repeat offenders;
- stopping the illegal trafficking of firearms;
- providing training and support for law enforcement agencies;
- protecting citizens who assist in law enforcement investigations;
- conducting community outreach and public awareness; and
- ensuring accountability among all of the Maryland EXILE partners.

In both Baltimore City and Prince George’s County, the first three years of the Maryland EXILE program have been marked by a significant increase in federal firearms prosecutions, lengthy federal and state prison sentences for numerous defendants prosecuted for firearms-related offenses, and successful efforts to take some of the most violent repeat offenders in Baltimore City and Prince George’s County off the streets. In addition, the Maryland 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.

The following is a brief overview of some of the accomplishments of the Maryland EXILE program in its first three years in Baltimore City and Prince George’s County.

FIREARMS PROSECUTIONS

Under Maryland EXILE, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and 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

In appropriate cases, once the U.S. Attorney’s Office has determined that a case is ready to be indicted, the U.S. Attorney’s Office sends a letter to the State’s Attorney’s Office for Baltimore City or Prince George’s County (SAO) advising that the case will proceed federally if the case has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the SAO by a specified deadline. That letter – known as a “Federal Letter of Intent to Prosecute,” or “FLIP” letter – is then shared with the defendant and state defense counsel. If the defendant does not plead guilty by the deadline, the defendant is promptly transferred to federal court to face federal prosecution.

Over 100 FLIP letters have been sent to date during the first three years of EXILE in Baltimore, including 30 such letters in 2008. In 2006, the first year of the program, 75% of the FLIP letter recipients pleaded guilty to state charges, which carried at least a mandatory five-year sentence. In 2007, the percentage of defendants pleading guilty in state court after receiving FLIP letters increased to 77%. In 2008, the percentage of FLIP letter recipients who pleaded guilty jumped to *over 88%*.

In Prince George’s County, 16 FLIP letters were sent to state prosecutors in 2008. In response to those letters, eight defendants pleaded guilty to state charges, which carried at least the mandatory five-year sentence. The other eight defendants rejected the state pleas and were indicted in federal court or were still pending by year’s end.

Federal Indictments – Baltimore City and Prince George’s County

Baltimore City

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Exile Defendants/Indictments</i>	<i>% Change from 2005</i>
<i>2008</i>	<i>206 Defendants/120 Indictments</i>	<i>67%</i>
<i>2007</i>	<i>197 Defendants/151 Indictments</i>	<i>60%</i>
<i>2006</i>	<i>151 Defendants/115 Indictments</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>2005 (Pre-EXILE)</i>	<i>123 Defendants/104 Indictments</i>	

The past three years have been marked by a steady and significant increase in the number of defendants prosecuted in federal court under the EXILE program. In 2008, the U.S. Attorney’s Office filed a total of 120 indictments charging 206 violent offenders in Baltimore City with firearms or related offenses. Over 60% of the cases indicted under the EXILE program during that period were based on referrals from the State's Attorney's FIVE Unit. Many of the cases involved local gun arrests that resulted in lengthy federal prison sentences.

As reflected above, the number of violent offenders charged in federal court has increased steadily in each year of the EXILE program’s existence and represents a dramatic increase over the number of such offenders prosecuted prior to the program’s inception.

Prince George's County

Year	Number of Exile Defendants/Indictments	% Change from 2005
2008	51 Defendants/47 Indictments	29%
2007	66 Defendants/36 Indictments	62%
2006	53 Defendants/51 Indictments	42%
2005 (Pre-EXILE)	45 Defendants/36 Indictments	

In Prince George's County in 2008, the U.S. Attorney's Office filed a total of 47 indictments charging 51 violent offenders with firearms or related offenses. As reflected above, the number of such offenders prosecuted federally has increased substantially since the program's inception.

District Totals

	Total Firearms/Violent Crime Charges	Percentage Change from 2005
Northern Division	265	47%
Southern Division	51	
District Total	316	

In 2008 the U.S. Attorney's Office's Southern Division, which serves Prince George's, Montgomery, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties, charged a total of 51 violent offenders with firearms or related offenses. The Office's Northern Division, which includes Baltimore City and the state's other counties, charged a total of 265 violent offenders with such offenses. Approximately 78% of those defendants were from Baltimore City cases.

In total, the U.S. Attorney's Office charged a total of 316 violent offenders with firearms or related offenses. This represents a 47% increase from the number of defendants charged with such offenses in 2005.

VIOLENT REPEAT OFFENDERS

Maryland EXILE's team of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies is committed to working proactively to identify the community's most violent offenders and to devise strategies for getting them off the streets as quickly and effectively as possible. To accomplish this goal, we have begun implementing the Violent Repeat Offender ("VRO") initiative in Baltimore City and Prince George's County.

Under Maryland EXILE's VRO initiative, teams comprised of representatives of Maryland Parole/Probation, DEA, HIDTA, FBI, ICE, ATF, local police, the SAO, and the U.S. Attorney's Office meet regularly to identify some of the most violent individuals in Baltimore and Prince George's County – including individuals who belong to violent gangs 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 Baltimore and Prince George's County VRO teams determine the most effective strategy for arresting and detaining each individual or gang – 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 or group. The teams also determine the most effective strategy for arresting and detaining newly identified VROs.

In Baltimore City, approximately 61 VROs have been identified and pursued since the city-wide VRO program began in early 2006. Of those, 48 have been convicted in state court or detained or convicted in federal court. These VROs have been taken off the streets through a combination of proactive federal investigations and prosecutions, federal adoption of state cases, state prosecutions, and parole or probation violations. The proactive investigations and prosecutions of these VROs have resulted in charges against not only the identified VROs, but also more than 120 other co-defendants – primarily other members of the gangs led by the VRO targets. Other VROs are the subjects of ongoing investigations.

In February 2008, in addition to the city-wide VRO program in Baltimore, the VRO team developed violent offender lists for three areas of the city marked by persistent violent crime – the Eastern District, Western District and the Park Heights area of Northwest Baltimore. The Baltimore Police Department, with assistance from federal partners, formed squads in each of those three areas dedicated to pursuing the violent offenders from those areas. In just the past year, nearly 60 violent offenders from these three areas have been detained on state or federal charges.

In Prince George's County, where the VRO program was established later in 2006, 10 VRO targets have been removed from the streets under this program.

CALL-INS

Representatives of Maryland Parole/Probation, the Baltimore Police Department, SAO, and U.S. Attorney's Office have joined forces with community leaders to conduct "call-in" meetings for repeat offenders in Baltimore. Maryland Parole/Probation and the Baltimore Police Department identify felons in particular areas who are on parole or probation for violent crimes or firearms offenses, as well as other individuals suspected of participation in acts of violence in the area. At the call-in meetings, representatives of the U.S. Attorney's Office, SAO, Baltimore Police Department, and Maryland Parole/Probation communicate the message directly and unambiguously that these individuals are going straight back to jail if they commit another offense. Representatives of service organizations, community leaders, and ex-offenders 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.


Since 2006, call-ins have been conducted for nearly 200 offenders from throughout Baltimore. In 2008, the call-ins were held in conjunction with Baltimore's "Operation Protect" Program, in which the city government infuses troubled neighborhoods with social services and city and police officials organize community-building events to encourage citizens to take back their neighborhoods.

MEDIA/PUBLIC AWARENESS

A key component of Maryland EXILE is an aggressive, innovative media/public relations campaign to send a message to criminals and to the broader community that any felon who carries a gun is going to jail – that *gun crime equals jail time*. 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. In Baltimore, 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 the past three years, the campaign has utilized radio ads, bus kings, and billboards to get the EXILE message to the public. EXILE television ads debuted in Baltimore in early 2007.


In Baltimore, the Baltimore Police Department has also utilized "EXILED" fliers announcing lengthy federal sentences received by particular defendants, which are distributed in the neighborhoods where those defendants resided and/or engaged in their criminal activity prior to being convicted in federal court. Here are some examples of those posters, which have generated positive feedback from community members.

EXILED




SHERMAN KEMP
AKA "GOOSE"
15 YEARS WITHOUT PAROLE
IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR POSSESSION OF A GUN

DROP THE GUN –
OR YOU COULD BE NEXT




EXILE TIP LINE: 410-685-GUNS

EXILED



AKIBA MATTHEWS
30 YEARS WITHOUT PAROLE
IN FEDERAL PRISON IN PENNSYLVANIA
FOR POSSESSION OF A GUN

DROP THE GUN –
OR YOU COULD BE NEXT



EXILE TIP LINE: 410-685-GUNS

OUTREACH

Taking back our neighborhoods and communities requires more than effective law enforcement. As a result, Maryland EXILE emphasizes community action and neighborhood renewal projects. Armed criminals are not just a police problem; they are the community’s problem as well. Only through concerted action by the entire community can we stem the rising tide of violent crime and make a lasting, long-term impact.

Maryland EXILE will continue to help to initiate and fund community revitalization projects in certain neighborhoods that have been hit most severely by violent crime. The initiative will also work with local police departments to promote and expand the use of neighborhood watch programs and other types of activities designed to empower residents to take back their streets from drug dealers and other criminals.

In order to achieve lasting change, we must communicate the goals of Maryland EXILE to our youth. Maryland EXILE partner agencies are sending representatives to our schools to promote the goals of the program and to encourage students to help end the cycle of gun crime and violence in their communities.

For instance, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Baltimore City SAO, and the Baltimore City School System are continuing to expand upon their partnership to minimize the involvement of

youth in gangs and violence. During the Spring of 2008, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Baltimore City SAO, and Baltimore City Public Schools partnered with WombWorks and other social service organizations to deliver an innovative arts-based gang prevention and intervention program at Dunbar and Lemmel Middle Schools. The program, entitled "Increase The Peace Project," was designed to educate youth about the dangers of gangs, while providing social service support to youth who are actively seeking a way out of gang involvement. The success of these pilot programs has led the Baltimore City Schools to expand the program into seven additional schools for the 2008-2009 school year.

In addition, Maryland EXILE is working with the Baltimore City Schools to initiate the "Safe Passages Program." The Safe Passages Program is a concerted effort to ensure that young people will be able to safely traverse to and from school without being harassed by gangs or targeted for recruitment activities.

If you are interested in having a Maryland EXILE representative speak to your youth or community group, please contact Steve Hess at (410) 209-4930 or Troy Williams at (410) 209-4940.

OFFICER RECOGNITION

On a regular basis, the Maryland EXILE partner agencies have presented EXILE Achievement Awards to federal agents and Baltimore Police officers whose outstanding work has resulted in significant federal firearms prosecutions in Baltimore. Awards have also been presented to city and federal prosecutors and other law enforcement personnel for their outstanding work in helping reduce violent crime in Baltimore. In 2008, awards were presented to 87 local police officers and federal agents, six local and federal prosecutors, and several other law enforcement professionals. Since the EXILE program began, awards have been presented to more than 200 local police officers and federal agents, 19 local and federal prosecutors, and nine other law enforcement professionals, including employees of ATF and Maryland Parole/Probation.

TRAINING

Since 2006, prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's Office and SAO and ATF agents and Task Force Officers have teamed up to provide legal instruction during regular inservice training for Baltimore Police officers. The U.S. Attorney's Office and Baltimore City SAO also provide specialized instruction to police officers on search warrants, report-writing, and other particular topics. Prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's Office provide similar legal instruction during inservice training for Prince George's County Police officers.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Representatives of the partner agencies meet regularly to monitor the Maryland EXILE initiatives, and the principals of those agencies meet on approximately a quarterly basis to review the progress of all aspects of the program.

To read the Maryland EXILE strategies for Baltimore City and Prince George's County, please visit www.usdoj.gov/usao/md.

GANG STRATEGY

Whether it is the street-level drug gangs that infect neighborhoods in Baltimore City or the more organized gangs such as MS-13 or the Bloods, gang violence terrorizes communities, makes innocent people feel unsafe in their own neighborhoods, and destroys the lives – and steals the futures – of our children.

To stem the rising tide of gang violence and to make our streets and neighborhoods safe again, the U.S. Attorney's Office has developed an anti-gang strategy and has been coordinating a combined federal, state, and local law enforcement effort to dismantle gangs.

The U.S. Attorney's Office uses every available federal law enforcement tool to prosecute violent gang members, including the federal racketeering statute and conspiracy laws. Pursuing violent gangs is one of the centerpieces of the Maryland EXILE strategy. As part of Maryland EXILE, teams of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers are targeting the most violent repeat offenders in Baltimore City and Prince George's County, many of whom are members or leaders of street-level drug crews or other gangs. These teams devise and execute specific strategies to get these violent offenders – and their entire gangs – off the streets, and to keep them off the streets.

Prosecution is an essential part of our strategy. But our goal is not just to prosecute gang members – it is to deter gang violence and to prevent young people from joining gangs in the first place. For that reason, we have joined forces with community groups, educators, and faith-based organizations to spread the word to parents and kids that deciding to join – or remain in – a gang is a matter of life and death. Our clear message is that if you join or remain in a violent gang, you can wind up losing your life, or spending it in federal prison. We also are teaching parents, teachers, and religious leaders how to detect gang activities and membership so they can intervene to prevent kids from joining gangs and to rescue those who are looking for a way out.

FEDERAL ANTI-GANG GRANTS

On December 16, 2008, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced anti-gang grant awards of more than \$1.2 million to local jurisdictions and organizations in Maryland to combat gangs and

gang violence in local neighborhoods, communities, and schools. The more than \$1.2 million in grants were made possible through federal funding Senator Barbara Mikulski secured as Chairwoman of the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee to address Maryland's gang issue. Programs throughout the state will receive funding for prevention, intervention and suppression strategies in a continuation of the program established in 2006.

A three-part plan was used to distribute the anti-gang money: a portion will be distributed through a competitive process based on a collaborative strategy developed by each jurisdiction; a portion is to be awarded on a discretionary basis to support existing prevention and intervention programs and statewide efforts; and the remaining funding will be used for law enforcement functions, including hiring gang prosecutors and providing witness protection, translation services and training. The U.S. Attorney's Office held regional informational sessions around the state to provide guidance about how best to put together an effective proposal.

GOCCP previously provided planning grants to each jurisdiction in Maryland to assess the local gang problem and develop a strategy to deal with it. Officials continue to rely upon those strategies, and many of the funding proposals will use the grants to continue implementing them.

Thirty entities from 17 Maryland jurisdictions submitted applications detailing their collaborative strategies to deal with local gang problems. A panel of subject matter experts from the Johns Hopkins Police Executive Leadership Program, the Maryland Sheriff's Association, the Maryland State Police, GOCCP, Hawkins Funding Development Group; Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute; HIDTA; community anti-crime programs; and the U.S. Attorney's Office evaluated and rated each proposal. At a meeting held on November 12, 2008, all panel members discussed the strategy, budget and objectives of each proposal, and rated the proposals, culminating in the grants announced on December 16, 2008.

FEDERAL GANG PROSECUTORS

We have used anti-gang funding to hire three new Assistant U.S. Attorneys to focus exclusively on gang prosecutions. These new prosecutors are working with our violent crime and narcotics prosecutors to investigate and prosecute gang-affiliated defendants using sophisticated investigative techniques, racketeering laws and other federal law enforcement tools.

GANG-NET

Law enforcement authorities throughout Maryland continue to implement and develop Gang-Net, a statewide law enforcement database announced in December 2006. The Gang-Net database, overseen by HIDTA (<http://www.hidta.org>), allows local, state, and federal law enforcement officials to share data on gang activities. By centralizing intelligence about gangs, this database allows law enforcement officers to identify gang members more effectively and to better understand and respond to gang problems.