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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ADDITIONAL CHARGES FILED IN CHARLES COUNTY SUBDIVISION ARSON

Greenbelt, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland announced that a 38-count superseding indictment was returned by a federal grand jury today. The following defendants were charged with arson, conspiracy to commit arson, and aiding and abetting, in connection with the December 6, 2004 fires at the Hunter's Brooke development located in Charles County, Maryland:

Patrick Steven Walsh, age 20, of Ft. Washington, Maryland;
Aaron Lee Speed, age 21, of Waldorf, Maryland;
Michael McIntosh Everhart, age 20, of Waldorf, Maryland;
Jeremy Daniel Parady, age 20, of Accokeek, Maryland; and
Roy T. McCann, age 22, of Marbury, Maryland.

The superseding indictment adds 31 arson counts, to include additional lots involved in the arson. In addition, Patrick Walsh is charged with possession of a firearm by an unlawful user of a controlled substance and with conspiracy to distribute MDMA and other controlled substances.

The superseding indictment alleges that from about August 1, 2004 to December 6, 2004, the defendants conspired with each other, and with other persons known and unknown to the grand jury, to maliciously damage and attempt to damage, by means of fire, residential dwellings under construction located in the Hunter's Brooke development, Indian Head, Charles County, Maryland.

The superseding indictment also alleges that the defendants did maliciously damage and attempt to damage, by means of fire, residential dwellings under construction located in the Hunter's Brooke development. The superseding indictment also charges that on or about October 21, 2004, Patrick Walsh, an unlawful user of MDMA, commonly known as Ecstasy, did knowingly possess firearms. Finally, the superseding indictment charges that from about January, 2004 through December 20, 2004, Patrick Walsh conspired to distribute and possessed with intent to distribute MDMA, commonly known as Ecstasy, oxycodone, Oxycontin and hydrocodone.

The maximum penalty for arson and for conspiracy to commit arson is a mandatory minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 20 years in prison followed by up to three years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine. The maximum penalty for the firearms charge against Patrick Walsh is ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine, and the maximum penalty for the drug charge against Walsh is twenty years imprisonment and up to a \$1 million fine.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of an investigation coordinated by a task force which includes the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal and the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Donna Sanger and Timothy B. Atkins.