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**BALTIMORE COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO 276 MONTHS FOR USE OF A
FIREARM IN COMMISSION OF A DRUG ROBBERY**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announces that today U.S. District Court Judge William D. Quarles, Jr. sentenced Damon Antoine Gaither, age 29, of Baltimore County, Maryland to 276 months in prison followed by 5 years of supervised release in connection with his guilty plea to using a firearm during the commission of a drug robbery which resulted in a death.

According to the agreed statement of facts presented to the court, on October 19, 1998 Gaither agreed with co-defendant Ronald Campbell and others to rob a drug dealer and any other occupants at the drug dealer's location in Baltimore County, of marijuana, other illegal drugs and money. They agreed to split the illegal drugs and money, and sell the marijuana. They drove in the defendant's car and another vehicle to the drug dealer's location. The defendant remained in a car outside the drug dealer's residence. Using the defendant's handgun and another co-conspirator's pistol, Campbell and another co-conspirator forced their way into the residence, pistol-whipped some of the occupants and seized money, jewelry and a small amount of marijuana. One occupant escaped. As Campbell and the co-conspirator were about to leave, the co-conspirator shot the drug

dealer once in the back with the pistol as he lay face down on the floor. The drug dealer died later that night as a result of the gun shot wound. The defendant's handgun used by the co-conspirator was recovered by the police at a co-conspirator's residence.

Co-defendant Campbell was previously sentenced to 25 years by Judge Quarles.

This case was investigated by the Baltimore County Police Department, the United States Attorneys Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys A. David Copperthite and Charles J. Peters.