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NEWS RELEASE
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FIVE MEMBERS OF WASHINGTON D.C. AREA RAP GROUP INDICTED FOR COCAINE DISTRIBUTION

United States Attorney John L. Brownlee announced today that five members of a Washington, D.C. area rap group named, "Hood Life Money," were indicted for conspiracy to distribute and distribution of cocaine in the Winchester, Va. area. The men involved in the conspiracy are Kamal Nigel Williams, 32, of Winchester, Marlon Antoine Bassil, 29, of Seat Pleasant, Md., Joseph Rodney Brooks, 29, of Greenbelt, Md., Brian McBride, 29, of Forestville, Md., and Stephen Robinson, 35, of Suitland, Md.

"This indictment sends a message that we will aggressively pursue anyone engaged in the illegal use or distribution of drugs," said United States Attorney John Brownlee.

The men are charged in an eight count indictment with conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of crack cocaine. Robinson is also charged with two counts of distribution of crack cocaine, and one count of possession of crack cocaine. Williams is also charged with possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, and distribution of cocaine hydrochloride. Brooks is also charged with possession of 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. Bassil is also charged with distribution of five grams or more of crack cocaine.

The grand jury has charged that beginning in September 2002, members of this conspiracy began selling crack cocaine in the Winchester area.

On June 3, 2005, and on January 6, 2006, Robinson sold crack cocaine to a police informant in the Winchester area.

The grand jury has alleged that on numerous occasions between October and December 2005, Williams sold crack cocaine in the Winchester area. During these transactions, Williams would often carry a handgun in his pocket or tucked into his waistband.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), and the Northwest Regional Drug Task Force.

Assistant United States Attorney Rusty Fitzgerald will prosecute the case.

A grand jury indictment is only a charge and not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

END