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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Michigan Man Indicted by Grand Jury on Federal Narcotics Charges

MINNEAPOLIS - A Michigan man who allegedly had more than 500 grams of crack cocaine hidden under the center console of his rental car has been indicted by a grand jury on federal narcotics charges. Derrick Lamont Brown, age 37, from the Detroit, Michigan, area, has been charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute 500 or more grams of crack cocaine and one count of possessing with intent to distribute approximately 560 grams of crack cocaine.

According to a criminal complaint filed in the case, a Duluth police officer on routine patrol on April 19, 2006, spotted Brown driving a silver Monte Carlo. The officer was familiar with Brown from previous incidents. When the officer attempted to catch up with the Monte Carlo, Brown fled at a high rate of speed but stopped following a pursuit. During a consent search of Brown's vehicle, officers discovered four cakes of crack cocaine hidden in a Wendy's restaurant bag under the center console.

If convicted, Brown faces a mandatory minimum of ten years in prison on each count of the indictment. Any sentence will be determined by a judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Duluth Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Joe Dixon is prosecuting the case.

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Criminal indictments are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty.