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MEDIA RELEASE

Barrow County, Georgia January 30th, 2009

Subject Arrested in Church Arson

A three-year joint investigation by Sheriff's Investigators and Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has netted an arrest. Maurice Arnold, 24, of Dacula, was arrested on 01.28.2009 by the Barrow County Sheriff's Office. He was charged with arson, conspiracy to commit arson, and vandalism to a place of worship.

On December 7th, 2005 the New Life Deliverance Church located at 231 Pierce Road, Winder, suffered extensive fire damage. The Barrow County Sheriff's Office, ATF, Barrow County Fire Department, and the State Fire Marshall's Office responded. An exhaustive investigation of the scene took place for nearly 11 hours. Evidence collected from the scene has been tested at the ATF Forensic Science Laboratory in Atlanta. Analysis of the evidence determined gasoline was used to start the fire. Over the course of the investigation following the fire, officials have interviewed numerous witnesses, obtained additional evidence, and conducted several surveillance operations.

The investigation continues as agents and investigators seek to exhaust all possible leads and to determine the involvement of any other person(s). More information will be released as it becomes available.

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