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MEMBERS OF BALTIMORE DRUG CONSPIRACY FOUND GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that a jury returned guilty verdicts today on all counts against Aaron DeMarco Foster, age 24, Keon D. Moses, age 21, and Michael Lafayette Taylor, age 20, all of Baltimore, Maryland, in a federal drug conspiracy case involving multiple murders.

Aaron Foster was convicted of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, witness tampering, carjacking, and use of a firearm in relation to the carjacking. Keon Moses was convicted of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine; and four counts of use of a firearm in relation to a drug conspiracy, specifically, the murder of Gregory Spain on September 23, 2001, the murder of Ronald Harris on September 23, 2001, the shooting of Charles Brockington III on September 23, 2001, and the murder of Robert McManus on February 22, 2002. Michael Taylor was convicted of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine; use of a firearm in relation to a drug conspiracy, specifically, the murder of Robert McManus on February 22, 2002; and witness tampering.

The defendants were indicted in September 2002 as members of a violent drug conspiracy in the Lexington Terrace neighborhood in West Baltimore. The indictment was the result of an extensive investigation into the drug trafficking and associated violence in and around that neighborhood. Testimony from cooperating coconspirators and numerous other witnesses, along with evidence from various related state arrests of the defendants, established that the Lexington Terrace group engaged in a wide variety of criminal offenses to protect its territory and its members, including narcotics trafficking, murders and attempted murders, witness tampering, arson, and armed robbery. In addition to the specific verdicts in the case relating to the murders of Spain, Harris, and McManus, the government presented evidence at trial of the defendants' participation in the murders of Cortez Bailey on June 27, 2000, Vance Beasley on March 21, 2002, and Travis Burley on April 1, 2002.

“These convictions reflect the unyielding commitment by federal prosecutors to make a serious impact on the violent crime problem in Baltimore City,” said U.S. Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio.

As a result of the verdicts returned today, defendant Foster is facing a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. He will be sentenced by the U.S. District Court Judge Catherine C. Blake on a date to be determined. Defendants Moses and Taylor are facing the death penalty. The jury that returned the guilty verdicts today will begin hearing evidence in the death penalty phase of the case on Tuesday, April 6, 2004.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Baltimore City Police Department homicide detectives, the Housing Authority Police Force, and the Baltimore County Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Andrea L. Smith and Stephanie A. Gallagher.