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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, October 20, 2004  
Norfolk, Virginia

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the guilty plea today of Walla Vincent Baldwin, Jr., a/k/a Neil Robert Jones, age 32, before the Honorable Rebecca Beach Smith, United States District Court Judge. Baldwin pled to a criminal information charging him with conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute cocaine and criminal forfeiture. He faces a term of 10 years to life imprisonment when sentenced on January 18, 2005.

The charges stem from the investigation of Baldwin, a local drug dealer, who transported kilogram quantities of cocaine from Texas to Virginia. Baldwin's DNA was found in the luggage being transported by a courier, which corroborated other aspects of the investigation.

Mr. McNulty said, "Mr. Baldwin is responsible for bringing an enormous quantity of cocaine into our community. His conviction proves once again that the business of drug trafficking ultimately leads to life behind bars."

This case is part of an investigation into drug trafficking from Texas to Virginia. The investigation is being conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Norfolk Police Department, with the assistance of law enforcement officials in Colorado and Texas.

Assistant United States Attorney Kevin M. Comstock prosecuted the case for the United States.

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