United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to Ten Years in Connection with Shooting Death of Acquaintance

WASHINGTON - Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today that a 24-year-old District man, David Cheeks, was sentenced to ten years in jail pursuant to a previously entered guilty plea to one count of Voluntary Manslaughter while Armed in connection with the March 29, 2008, shooting death of his acquaintance, Emidore Sinclair Nkol. Cheeks pled guilty on March 20, 2009, before the Honorable Frederick H. Weisberg of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Cheeks was the fourth defendant to plead guilty in connection with the murder of Emidore Sinclair Nkol.

At the plea hearing, Cheeks admitted that in the days before Nkol's murder, a co-defendant and Nkol got into a physical altercation over a $50 debt owed to Nkol by the co-defendant. During the fight, Nkol spit in the co-defendant's face, pulled a gun on him, and threatened to kill his mother and grandmother. In response to this incident, Cheeks and a second co-defendant drove to a gun store in Maryland and purchased 41 Magnum ammunition for the purpose of shooting the decedent.

Late on the night of March 28, 2008, Cheeks and his co-defendants drove to the 1200 block of Kennedy Street, N.W. armed with a 41 Magnum revolver, with the intent to find, shoot and kill Nkol. Shortly after midnight, on March 29, 2008, one of Cheeks' co-defendants found Nkol, and shot him once in the neck and once in the leg. Cheeks and his co-defendants then fled the scene. Nkol died soon thereafter. An autopsy conducted on Nkol later that day by Dr. Marie-Lydie Y. Pierre-Louis of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, determined that the cause of Nkol's death was multiple gunshot wounds to his neck and leg, and that the manner of Nkol's death was homicide.

In announcing today's sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended the work of Detectives Thomas Webb, Konstantinos Giannakoulias, Robert Cephas, Anthony Greene and Joshua Branson of the Violent Crime Branch of the Metropolitan Police Department. He also commended Paralegal Specialist Kelly M. Blakeney, Legal Assistant Doloris Young, and Victim

Witness Advocate Marcey Rinker. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles W. Cobb, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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