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PRESS RELEASE

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_____Superior Court Judge Sentences Columbia Heights Men for String of Robbery, Murder and Obstruction of Justice Charges

Washington, D.C. - Acting United States Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today that two District men, Ronald Marquet Cheadle and Azariah Israel, were sentenced for their roles in a string of violent crimes and attempts to obstruct justice by silencing witnesses. Judge Frederick H. Weisberg sentenced Cheadle to a total of 105 years of incarceration for his role in a number of crimes stretching back to 2002, including: (1) Armed Robbery, Attempted Armed Robbery, and Felony Murder, in relation to the September 2002 murder of Asheile George in the 500 block of Kenyon Street, N.W; (2) First Degree Premeditated Murder for the March 2003 killing of Elias Atkins inside of an apartment at 1414 V Street, N.W; (3) Obstruction of Justice in relation to the 2004 Murder of Pierre Johnson, which occurred while Cheadle was incarcerated; (4) Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice; and (5) related weapons offenses. Judge Weisberg sentenced Azariah Israel to a term of incarceration of 53 years and a fine of $25,000 for his role in the Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice, Obstruction of Justice, and 2004 Murder of Pierre Johnson. Israel is already serving a sentence of over 64 years for his role in the robbery of a 7-11 store, and the shooting of an employee during that robbery.

Cheadle, who uses the nickname "Marquet," and Israel, who uses the nickname "Head," terrorized the Clifton Street neighborhood of Washington, D.C. for many years. Several of the witnesses who testified against them at trial were understandably terrified. Mr. Phillips stated that this prosecution was instrumental in securing the safety of witnesses and in protecting the community from notorious and violent offenders such as Cheadle and Israel.

In delivering his sentence, Judge Weisberg stated that he was sickened by the contempt with which Cheadle distorted the criminal justice system by killing witnesses to prevent testimony against him. Judge Weisberg told Israel that he appeared to be proud of his outlaw persona and again expressed his disdain for his attempts to silence witnesses.

In announcing this sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended the tenacity and perseverance of Major Case/Cold Case Detectives Mitchell Credle, Darryl Richmond, Anthony Brigidini and Carlos Hilliard, who worked tirelessly to investigate this case. He also commended

the work of MPD Officers Kevin Jeter, Ridley Durham and Keith Slaughter, of the Mobile Crime Unit, and Officer Luciano Morales of the Firearms Unit, as well as Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Pierre-Louis, Deputy Medical Examiner Lois Goslinoski and Deputy Medical Examiner Sarah Colvin. Phillips also commended U.S. Attorney Office employees Thomas (Ron) Royal of the Litigation Support Services Unit, Paralegals Alesha Matthews and Debra Joyner, Intelligence Analyst Lawence Grasso, Investigator Christopher Brophy, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Denise Cheung, and Laura Bach who were involved in the investigation and presentation of evidence during the early phases of this case. Finally, Mr. Phillips commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Deborah Sines and Amanda Haines who successfully brought this case to trial.

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