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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today that Craig Lamont Brown, age 35, of Norfolk, was sentenced today in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, to serve 180 months of incarceration after his convictions for conspiracy, bank fraud, and making false claims against the United States. He was also sentenced to serve five years of supervised release upon completion of his incarceration, and to pay \$221,691.41 in restitution. Brown entered a plea of guilty to these charges on June 10, 2005.

Between 2000 and 2004, Brown and his nine co-defendants were involved in a scheme to defraud various banks and credit unions in the Tidewater and Richmond areas, as well as the Internal Revenue Service. The co-defendants would open accounts and deposit worthless or stolen checks into those accounts, after which they would withdraw funds credited on those checks as quickly as possible before the banks or credit unions could detect the scheme, splitting the resulting proceeds with Brown. Brown also prepared tax returns for the co-defendants and others that falsely inflated their income, which allowed them to obtain fraudulent refunds which were split with Brown.

The following co-defendants were previously sentenced as follows after their pleas of guilty to fraud-related charges in connection with this matter: Yvette Lorace Heath, age 29, of Norfolk, received fourteen months of incarceration, five years of supervised release, and payment of \$23,592.00 in restitution; Tawanda Ann Perrin, age 26, of Hampton, received six months of incarceration, five years of supervised release, and payment of \$8,643.00 in restitution; Robin Denise Allen, age 44, of Chesapeake, received six months of incarceration, five years of supervised release, and payment of \$17,865.00 in restitution; Drahcir Sibunjele Haynes, age 31, of Norfolk, received sixty-five days of incarceration, five years of supervised release, and payment of \$29,435.00 in restitution; Nicole Elizabeth Mosley, age 23, of Hampton, received one day of incarceration, four months of home detention, three years of supervised release, and payment of \$14,010.00 in restitution; Danielle Jordan Wells, age 35, of Norfolk, received one

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day of incarceration, four years of supervised release, and payment of \$27,540.00 in restitution; and Mario Clifton Wells, age 42, of Norfolk, received one day of incarceration, four years of supervised release, and payment of \$5,285.00 in restitution.

Co-Defendants Tabitha Shirell Jackson Nelson, age 28, of Virginia Beach and Donyl Michelle Heath, age 34, of Chesapeake, who also entered guilty pleas are scheduled to be sentenced within the next few weeks.

The investigation was conducted by Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigative Division, and the Virginia State Police. Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Moore and Special Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Dullaghan of the Virginia Attorney General's Office prosecuted the case.

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