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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NORRIS SENTENCED TO 6 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR MISUSE
OF BALTIMORE POLICE ACCOUNT AND TAX FRAUD**

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today United States District Court Judge Richard D. Bennett sentenced former Baltimore Police Commissioner Edward T. Norris, age 43, to 6 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release arising from his participation in a scheme to use police funds from a Baltimore City Police Department account (the "Supplemental Account") for personal use, and lying on his tax returns by failing to disclose the funds as additional income. Judge Bennett ordered that the first 6 months of the supervised release be served as home detention with electronic monitoring. Judge Bennett also required that Norris perform 500 hours of community service in the City of Baltimore and pay a \$10,000 fine. Finally, Judge Bennett ordered Norris and Stendrini to pay a total of \$12,000 in restitution to the City of Baltimore.

Judge Bennett also sentenced John Stendrini, age 60, Chief of Staff to former Baltimore Police Commissioner Norris, to 3 years probation with the first 6 months served as home detention with electronic monitoring arising from his participation in the scheme to use police funds from the Supplemental Account for personal use. Judge Bennett also required that Stendrini perform 300

hours of community service in the City of Baltimore and pay a \$10,000 fine.

In statements of facts made part of Norris' plea agreement entered with the court on March 8, 2004, and Stendrini's plea agreement entered with the court on March 10, 2004, Norris and Stendrini admitted that although they knew that the funds in the Supplemental Account had to be used for the benefit of the Department, between May 2000 and August 2002 Norris and Stendrini devised and carried out a scheme to use the Supplemental Account to finance between \$10,000 and \$30,000 in personal expenditures. Among other things, Norris used the Supplemental Account to finance his affairs with numerous different women and to pay for luxury hotels, expensive meals, clothing, and gifts from Victoria's Secret, Coach and other stores. Stendrini used the fund to pay for an expensive vacation to a resort in Ontario, Canada and various bar tabs.

Norris and Stendrini acknowledged that they prepared and submitted letters to the Fiscal Section authorizing the disbursement of funds from the Supplemental Account that were crafted to give the false impression that the funds were to be used or had been used for legitimate business expenditures. For instance, these disbursement letters routinely, falsely characterized expenditures for personal trips, meals, gifts, or other personal items as expenses related to police department business. In addition, once city officials began raising questions about the Supplemental Account, Stendrini admitted that he attempted to cover up these illegal activities by lying to city officials about the handling of the account.

Norris also admitted that his misapplication of funds resulted in additional income for him for tax years 2000, 2001 and 2002. As such, Norris was obligated, but failed, to report such income on his individual income tax return form 1040. The resulting tax loss was between \$5,000 and \$12,500.

“We deserve public officials who are both effective and honest. This prosecution sends a message that the only way to get from here to there is a policy of zero tolerance backed-up by an unyielding commitment and intractable belief that the rules apply to everyone,” stated United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division and the United States Attorney’s Office. This case was prosecuted by Steven H. Levin and Jason M. Weinstein.