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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDICTMENTS RETURNED IN HAMMOND FEDERAL COURT

Hammond, Indiana- The United States Attorney's Office announced that the following Indictments were returned on February 1, 2012:

- Earkle J. Tyler, 35, of Hammond, Indiana, and DeWayne Hutton, 43, of Merrillville, Indiana were charged in an Indictment with distribution of crack cocaine. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation GRIT Task Force. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Chang-Adiga.
- Ismail Bashir, 33, of Country Club Hills, Illinois, was charged in an Indictment with being a felon in possession of a firearm, being a felon in possession of ammunition, possession of a machine gun and possession of a machine gun not registered in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Griffith Police Department. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

The United States Attorney's Office emphasized that an Indictment is merely an allegation and that all persons charged are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.