



U.S. Department of Justice

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OCTOBER 27, 2005
EMBARGOED UNTIL 2:00 PM
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/md>

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**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY COMMENDS THE WICOMICO COUNTY STATE'S
ATTORNEY AND ITS PARTNERS ON THE SUCCESS OF "WICOMICO EXILE"**

Project Safe Neighborhoods Program Emphasizes "Hard Time for Gun Crime"

BALTIMORE, Maryland - At a public ceremony in Salisbury, Maryland today, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein lauded the "Wicomico Exile" program, a partnership program under the leadership of Wicomico County State's Attorney Davis R. Ruark.

The Wicomico Exile program involves a local firearm crime unit; partnerships with state, local and federal agencies; comprehensive investigations of gun crimes; training of prosecutors and police; and publicity, education and community outreach. Further information about the program and the partner agencies is available at www.wicomicoexile.com.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said, "Wicomico Exile is a unified, comprehensive effort by state, local and federal law enforcement agencies, working together with educators and community organizations. It involves aggressively investigating and prosecuting firearm crimes, and it also involves publicity and outreach to deter firearm crimes. The key to Wicomico Exile is the commitment of our law enforcement partners to work together to send the message that criminals will do hard time for gun crime. We must work together to reduce violent crime in Maryland."

Wicomico County State's Attorney Davis R. Ruark stated, "In addition to our local partners, our relationship with the United States Attorney's Office for Maryland is crucial to the success of Wicomico Exile. The ability to prosecute these cases in the forum where the greatest impact can be obtained gives Wicomico Exile an additional, and very effective, tool in combating violent crime. On behalf of Wicomico Exile, I am grateful for the commitment that the federal government has made to help reduce gun crime in our community."

Mr. Rosenstein encouraged all Marylanders to follow these Exile guidelines:

- * Report firearm crime tips to local police
- * Report firearm crime to Crime Solvers: 410/548-1776
- * Cooperate with law enforcement if you witness a firearm crime
- * Spread the word that EXILE means hard time for gun crime
- * Teach children the consequences of carrying a gun