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TWO BALTIMORE ROBBERS EXILED TO LENGTHY TERMS IN PRISON

Baltimore, Maryland - U.S. District Judge Richard D. Bennett sentenced Joseph Dominick Wright, age 26, of Baltimore today to 188 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release for robbing and attempting to rob electronics and commercial businesses, a bank and an armored car, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Judge Bennett also sentenced co-defendant Andre Parham, age 22, of Baltimore, today to six years in prison followed by three years of supervised release for two robberies and two break-ins of businesses. All of the robberies and attempted robberies took place in Baltimore.

According to Wright's plea agreement, on September 21, 2007 Wright and an accomplice smashed their way through the store windows of a video game store located on North Charles Street, as employees were closing the store. They used a gun to force the employees to give them between \$7,000 and \$8,000 of store money, as well as video games and video game consoles. According to Parham's plea agreement, Parham was also a member of the conspiracy that planned this robbery.

Similarly, on October 3, 2007, Wright and a group of accomplices pushed their way into a video game store located on Sinclair Road, using what appeared to be a gun to force store employees to provide merchandise. Parham personally participated in this robbery.

Wright also admitted to committing several other robberies. Specifically, Wright stated in the plea agreement that he participated in an armored car robbery during which more than \$100,000 was taken; that he robbed a bank on Albemarle Street and obtained \$20,000; that he robbed and attempted to rob at gunpoint, on separate occasions, a grocery store on Cold Spring Lane; and that he attempted to rob a cellular phone store but was prevented from succeeding when an employee blocked him from getting into the store.

According to Parham's plea agreement, Parham also participated in the break-in burglary of an electronics store on Fleet Street in which phones and other merchandise were stolen; and of a camera store on Boston Street in which merchandise was stolen. In both robberies, the stores' windows were smashed to gain entry.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked the Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy and Assistant State's Attorney Michelle Wilson, the Baltimore Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution. Mr. Rosenstein commended Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Hanlon, who is prosecuting the case.