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**ROCKLAND MAN CONVICTED IN 'SLEEPOVER BANDITS' CASE
OF CONSPIRING TO ROB AND ATTEMPTING TO ROB BANKS AND
A CREDIT UNION IN ROCKLAND AND SULLIVAN COUNTIES**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that following a five-day trial, a federal jury in White Plains, New York found HURGENES PIGNARD, a/k/a "Pop," of Piermont, New York, guilty of attempted bank robbery and conspiracy stemming from the robberies or planned robberies of the Palisades Federal Credit Union in Pearl River, New York, the Charter One Bank in Spring Valley, New York and the First National Bank of Jeffersonville in Loch Sheldrake, New York.

As demonstrated by the evidence at trial:

HURGENES PIGNARD, together with RICHARD REGIS, BYRON LINDSAY, ELDON DALY, JAMAL BUSSEY and others conspired to rob banks and a credit union from December 2004 through May 2005. The crew modeled their robberies after "Sleepover Bandits," a 2001 movie about robbers who would arrive at a bank employee's house the night before the robbery, take them and their family hostage, and rob the bank the next morning. Thus, on December 12, 2004, PIGNARD, REGIS and LINDSAY, all of whom were masked and armed, went to the home of an employee of RIA Financial Services (a money transfer store) in the Bronx, New York, and took her and her husband hostage at gunpoint. While her husband was held at their apartment, PIGNARD and LINDSAY took the RIA Financial Services employee back to the store and robbed it of over \$53,000. The two robbers then took the employee back to her home, bound her and her husband, and left them there.

Thereafter, on April 20, 2005, PIGNARD and his conspirators, armed with a .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol and pellet guns, set out for the home of an employee of the First National Bank of Jeffersonville in Loch Sheldrake, New York.

PIGNARD and his co-conspirators planned to break into the employee's home, bind her with plastic ties and handcuffs, and obtain information from her about the bank's procedures in order to rob the bank the next morning. Their plan was foiled when an alert neighbor spotted PIGNARD and his cohorts breaking into the employee's home and called the police. PIGNARD and his cohorts fled before the police arrived.

On May 18, 2005, PIGNARD and his co-conspirators, disguised and armed with pellet guns, robbed the Palisades Federal Credit Union in Pearl River, New York, of \$219,700. During the robbery they tied up 12 credit union employees and customers with plastic ties and held them at gunpoint.

PIGNARD was specifically found guilty of one count of conspiring to commit bank robbery and credit union robbery; and one count of attempted bank robbery for the First National Bank of Jeffersonville, New York. PIGNARD was acquitted of possessing a firearm in furtherance of the First National bank of Jeffersonville attempted bank robbery in Loch Sheldrake, New York, and the jury failed to reach a verdict on the count of the indictment that charged attempted armed robbery of the Charter One Bank in Spring valley, New York.

At sentencing, PIGNARD faces a potential total maximum term of imprisonment of 25 years on the two counts on which he was found guilty. (PIGNARD is also charged in a separate federal indictment with possessing cocaine with intent to distribute. The charge in that case is merely an accusation, and PIGNARD is presumed innocent in that case unless and until proven guilty.)

To date the investigation of the bank robberies has resulted in the prosecution and conviction of four other individuals: REGIS, LINDSAY, DALY and BUSSEY, each of whom pleaded guilty to related federal charges. On November 13, 2006, United States District Judge Colleen McMahon sentenced REGIS to 211 months' imprisonment for his participation in the robbery and attempted robbery of seven banks, check cashing establishments and credit unions throughout Bronx, Rockland, Sullivan and Nassau counties. DALY is awaiting sentence before United States District Judge Stephen C. Robinson. BYRON LINDSAY is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Judge Charles L. Briant on September 12, 2007. JAMAL BUSSEY is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge McMahon on May 11, 2007.

Mr. GARCIA said that the investigation is ongoing.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts and assistance of the

Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Orangetown Police Department, the Piermont Police Department, the New York State Police, the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, the Nassau County Police Department and the New York City Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys JOHN P. COLLINS, JR. and CYNTHIA DUNNE are in charge of the prosecution.

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