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**EX-CEO PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARTIN FICKE, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), announced that ROBERT JOHNSON, 60, pleaded guilty today in Manhattan federal court to charges that he possessed child pornography and destroyed computer records that were the subject of a federal investigation.

According to the Indictment and JOHNSON's guilty plea, JOHNSON, the former Chief Executive Officer of a publicly traded company headquartered in New York City (the Company), knowingly possessed sexually explicit photographs of children on a computer owned by the Company. JOHNSON had obtained the illegal images by purchasing membership rights to websites that sold child pornography.

According to the Indictment and JOHNSON's statement in court, prior to May 3, 2004, ICE agents learned that ROBERT JOHNSON, using the internet aliases "robjob714" and "jobobo55," had purchased memberships in websites believed to contain and distribute child pornography and had done so through a computer that the agents traced to the Company. On May 4, 2004, an ICE agent spoke to two executives of the Company and informed them that ICE was investigating usage of a Company computer to access Internet websites believed to contain and distribute child pornography but did not tell the Company executives that ICE was investigating ROBERT JOHNSON. On May 4, 2004, one of the executives told JOHNSON, in substance, that the Company had received an inquiry from federal authorities concerning use of a Company computer to access Internet websites that contain and distribute child pornography.

According to the Indictment and JOHNSON's statement in court, on May 5 and 6, 2004, after learning about the federal

investigation into the use of a Company computer to access child pornography, JOHNSON used a computer program called "Evidence Eliminator" to destroy and obliterate more than 12,000 files from the hard disk drive of the desktop and laptop computers assigned to him by the Company.

In his plea allocution in court, JOHNSON acknowledged that he had possessed at least two images of child pornography that he had downloaded from an Internet website and he had used the "Evidence Eliminator" program to destroy computer files from his desktop and laptop computers after he learned of the federal investigation.

JOHNSON retired from the Company on May 17, 2004.

JOHNSON faces a maximum of 10 years in prison on the charge of possession of child pornography and a maximum of 20 years in prison on the charge of destruction of documents in connection with a federal investigation. The latter charge was brought pursuant to a statute enacted as part of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. JOHNSON is scheduled to be sentenced in Manhattan federal court before United States District Judge RICHARD J. HOLWELL on October 27, 2006 at 12:00 noon.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Assistant United States Attorneys JOHN J. O'DONNELL and IRIS LAN are in charge of the prosecution.

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