



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

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**ENFORCER IN BRONX CRACK-COCAINE OPERATION
FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that VON TUCKER, a/k/a "Vaughn Tucker," a/k/a "Face," a/k/a "Miller," was found guilty this afternoon in Manhattan federal court of murder, drug, and firearms charges, following an eight-day trial before Judge SHIRA A. SCHEINDLIN. The jury found TUCKER guilty on four counts in the Indictment, including a count charging TUCKER for the murder of KENNETH SCOTT, on Mother's Day, May 8, 2005; two counts related to his distribution of "crack" cocaine in 2005; and a count related to his use of a firearm in furtherance of the crack cocaine operation. According to documents filed in Manhattan federal court and the proof at trial:

TUCKER was an enforcer in a crack operation that sold crack on Seymour Avenue in the Bronx, from at least late March 2005 through late June 2005. The crack business operated 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and sold thousands of dollars of crack each day. In early May 2005, the victim, KENNETH SCOTT, robbed the crack operation of 11 bags of crack. TUCKER volunteered to murder SCOTT as retribution for the robbery, and to send a message to other criminals that they would not get away with stealing from TUCKER's crack operation. On May 8, 2005, TUCKER and a co-defendant, SHEDRET WHITEHEAD, a/k/a "Damu," looked for SCOTT in order to murder him. In the middle of the afternoon, TUCKER and WHITEHEAD drove up to SCOTT in a van, firing 13 bullets at SCOTT with a 9-mm firearm. SCOTT was hit three times and died before reaching the hospital.

Following the murder, TUCKER returned to work at the crack operation. On June 27, 2005, officers from the New York City Police Department executed a search warrant at a Seymour Avenue location and recovered large amounts of crack cocaine and tools of the crack-distribution business, including equipment

that was used to produce and package crack.

TUCKER faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 30 years and a maximum sentence of life in prison for the charges on which he was convicted. TUCKER's accomplice, WHITEHEAD, pleaded guilty on January 15, 2008, and is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge SCHEINDLIN on April 17, 2008. TUCKER is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge SCHEINDLIN on May 16, 2008.

Mr. GARCIA praised the outstanding efforts of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the New York City Police Department in this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys LAUREN M. OUZIEL and ALEXANDER J. WILLSCHER are in charge of the prosecution.

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