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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 27, 2007**

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**LEADER OF BRONX CRACK COCAINE ENTERPRISE
SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that CHARLES BRYANT was sentenced yesterday afternoon to 25 years' imprisonment for his participation in a conspiracy from September to December 2005 to distribute crack cocaine in and around the Patterson Houses in the Bronx, New York. United States District Judge LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN imposed the sentence in federal court in Manhattan.

The sentence followed a jury trial earlier this year in which BRYANT was found guilty of conspiracy to sell crack cocaine, and selling thousands of dollars worth of crack cocaine on two occasions, on November 17, 2005 and December 7, 2005. According to the evidence at trial:

From approximately September through December 2005 BRYANT controlled the block at 143rd Street and Morris Avenue in the Bronx, calling himself "C-Rock," and selling hundreds of vials of crack on the street. BRYANT ran his crack business in and around a 99-cent store where he worked, located at 262 East 143rd Street, across from the Patterson Houses. BRYANT brokered the crack deals himself, but often used a handful of associates, including a teenager, to make the crack deliveries to customers. (One of those associates was also tried and found guilty with BRYANT earlier this year.)

Today's sentence is the result of a joint investigation by the United States Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the New York City Police Department. Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the investigative agencies in this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys SEETHA RAMACHANDRAN and BOYD M. JOHNSON III are in charge of the prosecution.