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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **WAL-MART ROBBER CONVICTED**

### **Two Defendants Were Wal-Mart Employees**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Pat Meehan announces the conviction, Friday, of the lead gunman behind the robbery of the Wal-Mart at 4640 Roosevelt Boulevard on December 3, 2006 during which more than \$350,000 was stolen from the store’s safe. Bilial Shabazz, a/k/a “Pepe,” a/k/a “Terry Sharp,” was charged along with three co-defendants (Christopher Young, a/k/a “Pun,” Steven Patton, and Bruce Johnson) with conspiracy to commit a Hobbs Act Robbery as well as Hobbs Act Robbery and using and carrying firearms during and in relation to a crime of violence. Young, Patton and Johnson entered plea agreements earlier this year. Patton and Johnson were assistant Wal-Mart managers at the time of the robbery, making the store an easy target for Shabazz and Young.

“These defendants carefully planned and carried out this robbery,” said Meehan. “They used inside knowledge not only of store procedures but of timing to ensure the highest payoff for their criminal efforts. It is gratifying that the jury returned a verdict that will send Mr. Shabazz back to prison.”

Johnson provided Shabazz and Young with blue Wal-Mart smocks to carry as they entered the store. Patton was working night shift at the store and opened the doors for Shabazz and Young to enter around 2:14 a.m on December 3, 2006. Once inside, Shabazz and Young brandished firearms at a victim employee, forced him into the safe room, and duct taped his mouth and hands. Patton pretended that he was also a victim while opening the store safe. The robbers stole approximately \$351,563 from the safe. Shabazz fled the area after the robbery and despite his efforts to evade authorities, the FBI tracked him down in Florida.

Counts One and Two carry a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment. Count Three carries a mandatory seven year consecutive sentence, up to life imprisonment, a lifetime of supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment. Shabazz’s sentencing is scheduled for November 16, 2007 at 9am.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Karen S. Marston. It was investigated by the Philadelphia office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Philadelphia Police Department.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Bilial Shabazz, a/k/a "Pepe," a/k/a "Terry Sharp"	Federal Detention Center Philadelphia	Age 37
Christopher Young, a/k/a "Pun"	Federal Detention Center Philadelphia	Age 34
Steven Patton	Federal Detention Center Philadelphia	Age 26
Bruce Johnson	Federal Detention Center Philadelphia	Age 35

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