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**FOUR MEN INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
MURDER OF WITNESS SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY IN BALTIMORE CITY TRIAL**

Carl Stanley Lackl Shot Three Times and Killed on July 2, 2007 in Return for \$2,500

Baltimore, Maryland – United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein today announced a seven-count federal grand jury indictment charging four Baltimore men with the murder of Carl Stanley Lackl on July 2, 2007. The indictment alleges that the defendants murdered Mr. Lackl in Baltimore County because he was a witness to a crime committed in Baltimore City.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said, “This case demonstrates our relentless commitment to prosecute anyone who harms a witness. One of the best ways to protect witnesses is to make it crystal clear that authorities will act swiftly and effectively against anyone who tries to harm a witness. With this prosecution and the indictments on October 23, 2007 for the murder of David Lee and November 13, 2007 for the murder of John Dowery, we intend to send a powerful message. Everyone who committed those crimes should expect to spend their lives in a small concrete cell in a federal prison far from Maryland, with no probation and no parole. Federal law allows us to prosecute anyone who harms a witness to a drug or gun crime, and we are using that authority to pursue criminals who attack both state and federal witnesses.”

Concerning the potential death sentence, Mr. Rosenstein said, “All four defendants are eligible for the death penalty. The decision whether to seek the death penalty will be made by the Attorney General of the United States.”

The four men charged in the indictment are identified as:

Patrick Albert Byers, Jr., age 22;
Frank Keith Goodman, age 22;
Steven Thompson, a/k/a L-Tigga, Trigger, age 26; and
Michael Jerome Randle, a/k/a L-Killa, age 19.

The indictment was returned by a federal grand jury on Tuesday and unsealed today following the arrests of all defendants.

“The federal indictment of these defendants is an important development in this tragic case,” stated Baltimore County State’s Attorney Scott D. Shellenberger. “These indictments send a strong message to criminals that intimidation of witnesses will be met with the full force of the federal government.”

“We stand here today, committed to pursue justice for Carl Lackl, a devoted family man, a passionate citizen, who in his short life demonstrated his commitment to justice for others. Our community can benefit from his example,” said Baltimore State’s Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy.

According to the allegations in the seven count indictment, the co-conspirators murdered Mr. Lackl in order to prevent Mr. Lackl from testifying against Byers in a Baltimore City Circuit Court case and in other proceedings involving Byers’s alleged possession of a handgun on March 4, 2006. They also planned for Byers to pay \$2,500 for the murder of Mr. Lackl.

On July 2, conspiracy members obtained a loaded .44 magnum handgun and went to Mr. Lackl’s home, where a co-conspirator used the gun to shoot Mr. Lackl three times, resulting in his death. Conspiracy members used cell phones to arrange to meet in east Baltimore to receive \$2,500 as payment for the murder.

The federal charges include conspiracy to use telephones in the commission of a murder-for-hire; use of telephones in a murder-for-hire; use of a firearm in a murder; conspiracy to murder a witness; murder of a witness; and conspiracy to use a firearm in a crime of violence.

All of the defendants face a maximum sentence of death and a minimum sentence of life in prison without parole. The defendants will have their initial appearances in federal district court at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked the Baltimore County Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Baltimore City Police Department, the Baltimore County State’s Attorney’s Office and the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution. Mr. Rosenstein commended Assistant United States Attorneys John Purcell and Michael Hanlon, who are prosecuting the case.