



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 2, 2008

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Woodbridge Men Plead Guilty to Arson

(Alexandria, Virginia) – Robert Williams, age 34, of Woodbridge, Virginia, pled guilty yesterday to the arson of two Woodbridge, Virginia businesses. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and ATF Special Agent in Charge Edgar A. Domenech, made the announcement after the plea was accepted by United States District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee.

Williams and two other co-defendants, Raymond Potoski and Santiago Ravens, were indicted on March 20, 2008 by a federal grand jury on conspiracy and arson charges. Raymond Potoski pled guilty to arson on May 20, 2008. Ravens pled guilty to arson on June 25, 2008. Sentencing for Potoski has been set for June 25, 2008; sentencing for Ravens has been set for September 12, 2008; sentencing for Williams has been set for September 12, 2008. Potoski, Williams, and Ravens each face a maximum penalty of 20 years of imprisonment and a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years of imprisonment. They each agreed to pay full restitution to the arson victims. The victims' losses exceed \$2 million.

In court documents, Williams admitted that on November 25, 2007, he, Raymond Potoski, and Santiago Ravens entered the Meadows Farms business in Woodbridge, looking for money and other things to steal. In the course of the burglary, the three men discovered that they were being recorded on a surveillance system and decided to start a fire at the building to destroy evidence of the burglary. The three men then proceeded to another business called Playtime Pools and Spas, also in Woodbridge. Potoski and Ravens entered the business to obtain moneys and checks, while Williams remained outside. After obtaining moneys and checks from the business, Potoski and Ravens set fire to the business to destroy evidence of the theft.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorney Ben Hatch is prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

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