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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**ROMULUS RESIDENT CONVICTED
IN FEDERAL COURT FOR
GUNS, DRUGS AND AMMUNITION**

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, and Valerie J. Goddard, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announced today that Lawrence Sales, also known as "Pee Wee", a 37-year-old resident of Romulus, Michigan, was found guilty today by a federal jury in Detroit on charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute; Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime; and being a felon in possession of 3 firearms and numerous rounds of ammunition.

The verdict was announced after the jury deliberated for approximately 75 minutes, concluding a three-day trial held before United States District Court Judge Bernard A. Friedman.

The evidence presented at trial showed that on July 10, 2003, detectives from the Romulus Police Department's Narcotics Unit, assisted by the Downriver Special Weapons and Tactics team (SWAT) and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives executed a state search warrant, previously obtained by the Romulus detectives, at the defendant's home located at 11320 Whitehorn, Romulus, Michigan. During the ensuing search of the premises, which was occupied by the defendant, his girlfriend, and three children under the age of ten at the time, officers found a variety of weapons, ammunition, marijuana, and an assortment of items used for the packaging and distribution of narcotics. Some of the ammunition was loaded into assault-style rifle "banana clips".

More specifically, the detectives found a loaded .357 magnum revolver, a 12 gauge shotgun, a .25 caliber semi-automatic pistol, scales, plastic bags, walkie-talkies, and 244 rounds of ammunition, including 9 mm, .38 special, .357 magnum, .32 caliber, .25 caliber, .380 caliber, .45 caliber, 12 and 16 gauge shotgun, and 7.62 x 39 assault-style rifle ammunition.

Subsequent investigation by ATF agents and Romulus Narcotics Unit detectives revealed, among other things, that the defendant has been selling marijuana, which he obtains in Inkster, Michigan, since he was about 13 years old. Investigation also revealed that the

assault style “banana clips” and ammunition belonged to an AK-47 assault-style rifle which the defendant reportedly sold to another individual.

“Drug and illegal gun possession are the two most dangerous threats to the safety for the people of Southeast Michigan, including our law enforcement officers,” stated SAC Goddard. “That’s why we are aggressively working to attack this problem by removing habitual offenders from our streets.”

United States Attorney Murphy stated, “This case is another example of the excellent team-work among local and federal agencies in Southeast Michigan to take guns and drugs off our streets. In particular, I would like to commend the detectives, agents, and forensic experts from the Romulus Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Michigan State Police”, stated United States Attorney Murphy. Murphy also noted that “my office is firmly committed to working with federal, state, and local agencies to aggressively bring to justice felons that continue to violate the law by possessing guns and drugs they intend to sell.”

Special Agent in Charge Goddard also praised the cooperative efforts of the agencies involved. She stated, “The partnership and coordination between local and federal law enforcement gives us the tools to target repeat, dangerous offenders who need to be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible for the safety and benefit of our neighborhoods which they threaten.”

Assistant United States Attorney John Freeman prosecuted the case.

Sentencing of Mr. Sales is scheduled for October 3, 2005.