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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**Alabama I.C.E. - Project Safe Neighborhood
Marcus Antonio Jones Found Guilty of Federal Firearms Offense**

The Alabama I.C.E. (Isolate the Criminal Element) initiative is a continuing effort to reduce gun violence and make the community a safer place for all its citizens.

Defendant Marcus Antonio Jones was found guilty by a jury in Federal Court in Mobile on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, for receiving a firearm while under indictment for a felony offense. The prosecution was based upon Jones' receipt of a handgun which was found in his possession during an incident on January 27, 2006, in which officers of the Selma Police Department were fired upon while conducting "drug sweeps" in the area of Henry Street and Gaines Avenue. At the time Jones received the firearm, a Hi-Point, .380 caliber pistol, he was under indictment in Dallas County for Assault Second Degree on a Police Officer.

Trial testimony referred to the presence of gang-activity between two rival factions known as the "Selmont Boys" and the "Twenty-Foot Boys." The "drug sweeps" in high-crime and known drug areas in which the Selma Police Department Officers were participating on January 27, 2006, are conducted in an effort to address the gang's illegal activities.

District Court Judge Kristi K. Dubose presided over the trial which was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Alabama. Sentencing was set for August 4, 2006. The statutory maximum sentence allowed for a violation of Title 18, United States Code Section 922(n), receipt of a firearm while under a felony indictment is five (5) years.

The case was investigated by Special Agent Ron Peterson of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, in cooperation with ATF Task Force Agent, Lt. Susan Smith of the Selma Police Department. Sergeant Tori Neely, Detective Harry Tubbs and Officer Willie Calhoun of the Selma Police Department and Alabama Bureau of Investigation Agent Johnny Tubbs testified at Jones' trial.