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PRESS RELEASE

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Former employee of residential program is convicted and sentenced for assaulting a 10-year old child

Washington, D.C. - A former counselor at the National Children's Center (NCC), a residential facility for individuals with developmental disabilities, has been found guilty and sentenced for assaulting a minor child who resides at the facility, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today.

On June 24, 2008, Willie Eubanks, 36, of Capitol Heights, Maryland, pled guilty to one count of Simple Assault in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia before the Honorable Erik Christian. Judge Christian sentenced Eubanks to 180 days in prison, all but 45 days suspended and two years of supervised probation. Eubanks was also ordered to undergo anger management and drug testing. Judge Christian imposed orders for Eubanks to stay away from the facility, the minor child, and all minor children under the age of 18. In addition, Eubanks was ordered to pay \$100 to the Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Fund.

According to the government's evidence, on September 30, 2007, staff took the victim and other residents of NCC on a community outing to the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts (Kennedy Center), located in Northwest Washington, D.C. Two Kennedy Center security guards witnessed Eubanks strike the child multiple times on his neck, back, and stomach while he was seated on an NCC bus parked in the Kennedy Center parking lot. When confronted by the security guards, Eubanks told them he was disciplining the child for misbehaving in the Kennedy Center.

In announcing the conviction and sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor and Inspector General Willoughby thanked the Kennedy Center security guards who reported the assault and testified before Judge Christian during sentencing. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Willoughby praised the work of former Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Criminal Investigator Vantresse McMillan and Criminal Investigator Allen Johnson for their investigation of the assault. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Willoughby also commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Karen Weiss and Ari Redbord and the MFCU Attorneys who jointly prosecuted the case.