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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2008

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Project SAFE Neighborhoods Effort Results in an Indictment for Firearms and Drug Trafficking Offenses

Fresno -- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a three count indictment charging Luis Gooden, 29, of Modesto, with carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking offense, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Ceres Police Department, the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office Investigation Division, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The indictment alleges that on April 6, 2007, the defendant was carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking offense being possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and that he carried the firearm after having been convicted of a crime punishable by more than a year imprisonment.

The maximum statutory penalty for these offenses is a mandatory minimum of five years, plus thirty years imprisonment, and \$1,500,000 in fines. However, the actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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