

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force Arrest Fugitive Highlighted on Crimestoppers Billboard for Attempted Murder of a New Orleans Police Officer

On October 16, 2008, members of the Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force (GCRFTF) arrested Vincent WALKER, 46, at an apartment complex within the 7800 block of First Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama. WALKER was wanted by the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) for Attempted Murder of a Police Officer. Detectives with the NOPD allege that WALKER was engaged in the looting of a business in the Algiers area of New Orleans one day after Hurricane Katrina laid waste to the metro area. As police officers from NOPD arrived at the scene, they encountered gun fire from the looters at the business. WALKER is alleged to have shot one of the NOPD officers in the head and then fled the area on foot. WALKER and his co-defendants were taken into custody by the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office a short time later. WALKER was initially jailed on the Attempted Murder of a Police Officer charge; however, there appeared to be a mishap from within the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office that led to WALKER's untimely release from justice.

In February 2007, the U.S. Marshals Service Eastern District of Louisiana Crescent Star Fugitive Task Force (CSFTF), in a collaborative effort with the NOPD and the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, initiated an investigation to locate WALKER. During the investigation to capture WALKER, task force officers tracked down numerous leads in various cities throughout the United States including: New Orleans, Houston, Atlanta, and Birmingham, Alabama. A recent Crimestoppers tip generated from a billboard advertisement gave crucial information that local investigators were able to develop, ultimately leading to WALKER's capture. U.S. Marshal Michael Credo stated: "Thanks to the numerous law enforcement agencies, both local and federal, involved in this investigation. They're hard work and dedication led to his arrest. It also showcases the public's involvement in removing a dangerous criminal from the streets and returning him to justice".

The U.S. Marshals Service EDLA sponsored CSFTF established itself in 1999 and is currently receiving extra support from the U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Department of Justice to fight post Hurricane Katrina violent crime and locate sexual predators in the New Orleans metro area. Current CSFTF members include the New Orleans Police Department, the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, Louisiana Probation and Parole, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. Border Patrol. Other New Orleans metro area law enforcement agencies participating on a case by case basis include: Bogalusa Police Department, St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Social Security

OIG . For more information on the U.S. Marshals EDLA CSFTF go to
www.usmarshals.gov/district/la-e/news/index.html

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