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For more information: Leah Gurowitz or Tom Feeney
(202) 879-1700

MAYOR GRAY, CHIEF JUDGE SATTERFIELD ANNOUNCE DC SAFE SURRENDER 2011

WASHINGTON, DC -- Mayor Vincent C. Gray, Superior Court Chief Judge Lee Satterfield, DC Public Defender Service Director Avis Buchanan, Elder James Jenkins and 2007 Safe Surrender participant Willie Jones spoke at the Safe Surrender press conference in front of the Moultrie Courthouse. Also joining them on the podium were Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier, Acting US Marshal Thomas Hedgepeth, US Attorney Ronald Machen, Pretrial Services Agency Director Susan Schaffer and US Parole Commission Chairman Isaac Fulwood.

The DC Safe Surrender program is an opportunity for persons who have outstanding bench warrants for non-violent felonies or misdemeanors in D.C. to surrender voluntarily at the Moultrie Courthouse. DC Safe Surrender recognizes that many persons have bench warrants because they failed to appear for a court hearing or violated conditions of probation or parole, and they now want to resolve the matter and move forward with their lives. The program's goal is to reduce the number of outstanding bench warrants. The program provides persons with a way to turn themselves in, without the risk of being arrested at home, in front of their family and children, or during a routine traffic stop. Over 500 people turned themselves in during a similar program in 2007, with all but 10 going home that same day.

"Providing for safe communities is one of my administration's top priorities, and the Safe Surrender program helps make the District of Columbia safer by encouraging those wanted for non-violent crimes to do the right thing," said Mayor Gray. "It represents a win-win proposal for our justice system and for the accused."

"DC Safe Surrender is an initiative focused on increasing public safety, and we hope to build on the success of the 2007 program," Chief Judge Satterfield said. "By taking responsibility for their actions, participants of Safe Surrender can show their friends, family, and the judge, that they are taking the appropriate steps towards becoming responsible members of the community. I encourage everyone with an outstanding bench warrant to turn themselves in."

The DC Safe Surrender program will take place on three consecutive Saturdays, **August 13, August 20, and August 27, 2011** from **9:30am-4:30pm**. For more information, including a list of those with bench warrants eligible for the program, please visit www.dcsafesurrender.org.

Safe Surrender is a partnership between: the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, DC Public Defender Service, DC Superior Court, Deputy Mayor's Office for Public Safety and Justice, Metropolitan Police Department, Office of Attorney General, Pretrial Services Agency, US Attorney's Office, US Parole Commission and US Marshals Service.

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