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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On July 19, 2010, a Halifax County jury recommended the imposition of the maximum amount of imprisonment allowed in a case involving a third offense of driving under the influence of alcohol and an offense of driving while a license is revoked. The jury recommended that John Henry Brandon, age 37 of Old River Road in South Boston, be imprisoned for 5 years on the DUI and for 12 months on the driving while revoked.

Kim Slayton White, Commonwealth's Attorney, presented evidence from Trooper K. R. Martin of the Virginia State Police and from Melissa Kennedy of the Department of Forensic Science at the day-long trial. Among the evidence presented was that Brandon, on the afternoon of February 12 of this year, drove a truck on Sinai Road while he had a blood alcohol concentration of 0.25, more than three times the legal limit. Also presented to the jury were numerous prior criminal offenses committed by Brandon. "Clearly the jury agreed with the position of the Commonwealth that Mr. Brandon's present behavior and criminal history demonstrated that he created a danger if he were to be allowed to remain on the streets," commented White.

White further explained that in Virginia, either side of a case can request a trial by jury. "In this case, the Commonwealth requested the jury because we did not believe Virginia's Sentencing Guidelines recommended a sufficient sentence to the trial judge," stated White. "Now when Mr. Brandon is sentenced by the judge, the jury's recommendation will speak as the voice of the citizens of Halifax County."

Questions may be directed to:

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