

STATE OF MARYLAND

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For Immediate Release – Indictment of Robert L. Thomas and Paul L. Wright

The Office of the State Prosecutor announced that the Grand Jury for Prince George's County, Maryland has returned a three (3) count indictment charging Robert L. Thomas and Paul L. Wright with bribery; with conspiring together and with Robert L. Isom to demand and receive a bribe in the amount of \$250,000.00; and with conspiring together and with Robert L. Isom to steal the sum of \$250,000.00 from Interior Systems, Incorporated. According to the indictment, the schemes alleged occurred from September 29, 2004 through February 11, 2005.

Robert L. Isom is not charged in this indictment. He was previously indicted and has pled guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery. Mr. Isom's sentencing is presently scheduled for January 26, 2006.

Mr. Thomas, 63, was employed as a Deputy Director of the Prince George's County Department of Central Services from December, 2003 to April, 2005. He retired from the Internal Revenue Service in 1996 where he served as the head of the criminal investigations for the western region. He was named by Marion Barry as the Acting Inspector General for Washington, D.C. in April, 1997. Mr. Thomas operates an accounting firm in Bowie, Maryland known as Winstead and Thomas. He resides on Hampstead Court in Port Tobacco, Maryland.

Paul L. Wright, 52, resides on Lochton Street in Upper Marlboro. He is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in Maryland and is also a licensed as an attorney in New York State.

If convicted, the maximum penalty for each count of bribery and conspiracy to commit bribery is imprisonment for not less than 2 years and not exceeding 12 years or a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$5,000 or both. The maximum penalty for conspiracy to commit felony theft is 15 years incarceration, a fine of \$5,000 or both, plus restitution. At this time, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Wright are only accused and are presumed innocent.

The present indictment stems from a joint investigation by the State Prosecutor's Office, the Maryland State Police and the United States Postal Inspection Service. The State Prosecutor, Robert A. Rohrbaugh, stated that the investigation is continuing.