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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO 14 YEARS FOR BELVIDERE DRIVE-BY

Boone County State's Attorney Michelle Courier announced that on June 12, 2009, Mario Colin-Rendon was sentenced for his shooting of a rival gang member. Colin-Rendon, who was 18 at the time of the shooting, pled guilty to Aggravated Battery with a Firearm and was sentenced to 14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. He had no prior felony convictions.

On October 29, 2008, Colin-Rendon was a back seat passenger in which a fellow gang member, Surall Berry, was driving. Mario Colin-Rendon and Surall Berry are members of the Maniac Latin Disciples street gang in Belvidere. They drove to the area of W. 6th Street and 12th Avenue in Belvidere where Artemio Rubulcava, a rival Latin King gang member was. Colin-Rendon rolled down the window and fired one shot at Rubulcava, striking him in the left thigh just about above the left knee.

Boone County State's Attorney Courier was pleased with the sentence. "It is important to send a message that we will not tolerate gang violence of any sort in our community," Courier commented. "My office will ensure that we send the message that there are consequences for such violence. I believe a fourteen year prison sentence sends that message. I would like to thank my First Assistant State's Attorney Sal LoPiccolo for his extended efforts in this case."

This is a Class X felony conviction which carries a sentencing range of between 6 to 30 years in the department of corrections. It is also a truth-in-sentencing crime, which requires this defendant to serve 85 % of his 14 year sentence.