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## Four Charges Dropped Against Father in Teen Bombmaking Case

BY DAN MORSE

The father of a teen accused of making bombs and possessing a map marked with a presidential motorcade route received a term of probation after entering a plea agreement to resolve charges that he bought his son firearms.

Joseph Gude entered an Alford plea to a misdemeanor offense of contributing to conditions causing a child to be in need of supervision. Under such a plea, defendants maintain their innocence but don't contest that the prosecutors have enough evidence to secure a conviction.

In exchange, Montgomery County prosecutors dropped four charges alleging that Gude, 62, purchased firearms for his son.

District Judge William Simmons placed Gude, a Treasury Department employee, on one year of unsupervised probation, according to court records. He also imposed a "probation before judgment" ruling. That means the case will be eligible for expungement from Gude's record once he completes probation, said his attorney, Stephen Mercer.

Last summer, police searched the Bethesda home Gude shares with his wife and son, Collin McKenzie-Gude.

Inside Collin's bedroom, police found military-style rifles, two shotguns, various chemicals, switches, pipes and other materials that could be used to make bombs, according to a law enforcement affidavit. Police also found a map of Camp David marked with the presidential motorcade route and a document that appeared to describe how to kill someone at 200 meters, according to prosecutors.

McKenzie-Gude, 19, is being held in the county jail. Federal authorities have charged him with

possession of an unregistered explosive device and production of false identification documents. A trial is set for Aug. 4.

**Steven Kupferberg, an attorney for McKenzie-Gude, said his father should never have been charged in the first place. "He got caught up in the case when Collin's case took on a life of its own," said Kupferberg, who has maintained that Collin never intended to hurt anyone.**

Lucille Baur, a spokeswoman for the police department, said, "Our police investigators developed enough probable cause to arrest and charge" Gude. ■

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