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Press Release
January 11, 2005

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Announcement of Charges in Apartment Fire Deaths

Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy charged Louretha Ann Morgan, 46 of Detroit with Arson of a Dwelling in connection with the apartment fire at 905 Merton, Detroit on January 9, 2005. The Defendant was also charged with two counts of Felony Murder - Arson in connection with the deaths of Derrick Wilbourn, Jr., 3 and Robin Abraham, 19 who both died as a result of the fire. In addition, Defendant Morgan was charged with 8 counts of Attempted Murder in connection with injuries sustained by Derrick Wilbourn, Sr., 25; Jashara Clark, 24; Jajuan Brown, 22; Seahnell Hamilton, 31; Kenneth Ayer, 49; Makala Clark, 5; Dericka Bennett, 1; Acacia Bennett, 7 and Robin Cooper, 45 who resided in the apartment building. Morgan is also charged as a Second Habitual Offender.

Arson of a Dwelling is a felony that carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. Felony Murder - Arson carries a mandatory sentence of life with no parole and Attempted Murder carries a sentence of up to life in prison. Second Habitual Offender carries a sentence of one and one-half times the maximum sentence on the primary offense.

Prosecutor Worthy said, "As we approach Martin Luther King's birthday I am saddened to note his dream of a peaceful society is unrealized. Some people in our society still place atrociously little value on human life.

“Two are dead and nine people’s lives have been altered forever because the defendant chose to react fire over reason. It is my hope that we can use the next few days to reflect on the dream of Martin Luther King.”

The Defendant will be arraigned today at 5:30 p.m. at the 36th District Court in Detroit.

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