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## **Wayne County Prosecutor and Treasurer Announce Charges**

Prosecutor Worthy and Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz announced charges issued today against Michael Patrick Bowdell, a Department Executive of the Wayne County Treasurer's Office.

Mr. Bowdell is charged with Embezzlement by a Public Official over \$50 – a felony charge punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Mr. Bowdell is alleged to have taken over \$36,000 from a husband and wife over a five-year period. The couple gave the money to Mr. Bowdell toward the payment of their property taxes.

Treasurer Wojtowicz, expresses his thanks for the assistance with the investigation. "First, and foremost, I want to thank the affected taxpayers for bringing this matter to my attention. I also want to thank Wayne County Prosecutor Worthy and her staff for giving this matter immediate attention and investigating it to the fullest.

"I take the breach of the public trust very seriously, regardless of the individual. I am deeply saddened and disappointed that a member of my staff has not only breached the trust I have given him, but also the public's trust. The public's trust in the office of the Wayne County Treasurer must, at all times, be preserved.

"For that reason, as soon as I became aware of the allegations, I instructed my chief deputy to contact the prosecutor and to ask for an immediate investigation of the charges and to provide our full assistance. As a result of the joint effort in investigating this matter, we are able to bring this phase of the criminal proceeding to a rapid close."

Mr. Bowdell will be arraigned on April 20, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the 36<sup>th</sup> District Court in Detroit.

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