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For Immediate Release

Prosecutor Worthy Warns Parents Against Purchasing Violent Videos

Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy is urging parents to be vigilant about video game purchases during the holiday season.

The industry rating systems mandating an "M" (mature) for graphic violence suggests the games are inappropriate for youths under the age of 17. The "M" label for violence and the rarely used "AO" (adults only) label for those 18 and over had little impact in keeping the games from underage players. The rating system is further hampered by the fact that many retail outlets fail to enforce sales of adult rated games to youths.

The ten most violent video games sold in the community are:

1. Grand Theft Auto – San Andreas (also released just 2 weeks ago – Grand Theft Auto Special Edition and Grand Theft Auto – the Trilogy);
2. 50-cent: Bulletproof;
3. True Crime: New York City;
4. 187: Ride or Die;

5. 25 to Life;
6. Blitz the League – Lawrence Taylor;
7. Beat Down – Fists of Vengeance;
8. Rainbow Six – Lockdown;
9. Indigo Prophecy, and,
10. The Suffering – Ties that Bind.

Parents can obtain further information about video games and game ratings by contacting www.esrb.org.

Prosecutor Worthy said, "Your home alarm systems may not be going off, but the video game industry has broken into many of your homes. With a barrage of images and sound effects, the intruder routinely assaults tens and thousands of teenagers and young children throughout the nation. It is important that parents supervise the purchase and use of video games by their children."

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