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Press Release
February 2, 2006
Two Pages

For Immediate Release

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U * P * D * A * T * E

New Charges Issued in Grosse Pointe Murder Case

Today Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy announced charges issued against Joseph Michael Marasco, 51, of Grosse Pointe in connection with the June 14, 2005 murder of Barbara Iske. The murder occurred at the home Mr. Marasco shared with his mother located at 21 Dodge Place in the City of Grosse Pointe. Ms. Iske was a long time bookkeeper and friend of Mrs. Marasco in charge of managing her personal finances.

Mr. Marasco has been charged with Felony Murder, Murder First Degree and Conspiracy to Commit Murder. The murder charges carry a maximum penalty of life in prison without parole. Conspiracy to Commit Murder carries a mandatory life sentence.

The preliminary exam for Mr. Marasco will be held on February 9, 2006 at the Grosse Pointe Municipal Court located at 17147 Maumee before Judge Russell F. Ethridge at 10:00 a.m.

Derrick Anthony Thompson was charged on November 18, 2005 with the murder of Ms. Iske. Andre Lamarr Williams was later charged with the murder of Ms. Iske on November 28, 2005. On Tuesday, January 31, 2006, Andre Lamar Williams, 36, of Detroit waived his right to a preliminary examination. He was arraigned and later pled guilty before Judge Edward Ewell in the Third Circuit Court – Criminal Division on the same day. He will be a witness in the

homicide cases of Mr. Marasco and Mr. Thompson. Mr. Williams's sentencing will occur on February 14, 2006.

The preliminary exam for the third defendant, Derrick Anthony Thompson, 46, of Detroit will be held on February 9, 2006 at the Grosse Pointe Municipal Court.

Prosecutor Worthy stated, "This was not a "whodunit." The Grosse Pointe Police knew who the main suspect was all along. The Grosse Pointe Police Department along with the Detroit Police Department did painstaking work to reconstruct the case and apprehend all of the parties involved in the killing of Ms. Iske.

"Murder for hire takes time and planning to carry out. That's why it took time to solve this case. This is one of the most vicious crimes because a totally innocent victim was killed purely for personal gain.

"We took the extraordinary measure of arraigning Mr. Williams and taking a plea yesterday for the protection of the public and because of Mr. Marasco's potential for flight risk."

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