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For Immediate Release

Prosecutor Announced Charges in Three Cases

Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy announced charges in three cases today.

Emergency Services Operators

On February 20, 2006, five-year old Robert Turner called 911 from his home in the 1900 block of Spruce in Detroit, Michigan because his mother needed emergency medical care. Two Emergency Services Operators, Sharon Nichols, 43 and Terri Sutton, 47 of Detroit took calls from Robert.

Ms. Nichols took the five-year old child's call at approximately 5:59 p.m. on February 26, 2006, and spoke with him for approximately 43 seconds. She failed to adhere to the pattern of questioning designed to evaluate a call and she failed to treat the call as an emergency. No police car was sent to the Spruce Street address.

On the same date at approximately 9:02 p.m., Robert called 911 again and spoke with Terri Sutton for 1 minute and 16 seconds. Ms. Sutton did not adhere to the pattern of questioning designed to evaluate a call and also failed to treat the call as an emergency. She disregarded Robert's statement that his mother had passed out. She failed to continue to question Robert and did not evaluate the call. She labeled the call as a prank and allegedly only sent a police car out to discipline the child and inform the parent that the child was dialing 911.

As a result of these actions Ms. Nichols and Ms. Sutton will be charged with Willful Neglect of Duty, MCL 750.478, a one-year misdemeanor.

Woman Charged in Grosse Pointe Cat Case

On May 10, 2006, Sylvia Gray, 57, of Grosse Pointe was asked to submit to a home inspection to ensure her compliance with the City of Grosse Pointe Farms animal ordinance that mandates only two dogs and two cats per household. Officers from the Grosse Pointe Farms Police Department went to the home at approximately 2:30 p.m. on the same date. The house contained 42 cats, 3 dogs and 6 birds that were taken from the house. Cat feces and puddles of urine permeated the entire house. Small bugs believed to be fleas were also in the house.

On the first floor of the house there was little furniture. The kitchen was filled with dirty dishes and pots in the sink and cat feces and cat hair everywhere

The house was unfit for humans to live in as a result of animal waste and bugs discovered in the house. Ms. Gray has two children who were residing in the house with the 51 animals. For this reason Ms. Gray is being charged with Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, MCL 750.145, a 90-day misdemeanor because she contributed to the a delinquency of a minor under the age of 17 by neglecting them and allowing them to live in environmentally unsafe conditions.

Dearborn Heights Bus Driver Charged

On November 23, 2005, Dearborn Heights Crestwood District bus driver Yvonne Meader, 45, picked up three handicapped children to transport them to their homes in Dearborn Heights from the Burger Annex in Garden City.

Ms. Meader dropped off two children and left a five-year old autistic child on the bus in the cold. It is policy for bus drivers to inspect the bus once it is parked at the lot and then flip up a sign indicating that the bus is empty. When the child's mother reported him missing Crestwood School officials searched the bus yard and found the five-year old on a bus with his shoes and socks off. He was found approximately three hours after he should have been dropped off. He was taken to St. Mary's Hospital and treated for low core body temperature and released.

Ms. Meader of Dearborn Heights is being charged with Child Abuse Second Degree – A Reckless Act Likely to Cause Serious Physical Injury, MCL 750.136 B3, a four-year offense.

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