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***For Immediate Release***

## **PROSECUTOR ISSUES CHARGES AGAINST FORMER HENRY FORD HOSPITAL PHARMACIST**

Former Henry Ford Hospital pharmacist Joseph N. Fakhoury, 41 of Detroit was charged with stealing drugs and money from the hospital. According to hospital authorities, Mr. Fakhoury had been employed for one year with Henry Ford, from 2005-2006.

Officials at the hospital discovered drugs and money missing from the pharmacy and reported it to the police. After a yearlong investigation by the Michigan State Police Violent Crime Task Force, Mr. Fakhoury was identified as the suspect.

It is alleged that Mr. Fakhoury stole Narco, Ritalin, Zyprexa, Seroquel, Darvocet, Vicodin, and V-Fend. The estimated value of the drugs taken was in excess of \$121,000. In addition, approximately, \$30,000 was taken from the hospital pharmacy cash register.

Mr. Fakhoury is charged with two counts of Embezzlement over \$20,000 by and Agent or Trustee for taking the drugs and money. The maximum penalty is 10 years in prison and/or a \$15,000 fine or three times the amount embezzled, whichever is greater. In addition, he is charged with Larceny in a Building, which carries 4 years in prison and/or a \$5,000 fine; Controlled Substance – Licensee/Distribution without an order form, which carries 4 years in prison

and/or a \$30,000 fine; and Controlled Substance – Licensee Prescription Violations, which carries 2 years in prison and/or \$25,000.

“In my view, Mr. Fakhoury’s alleged conduct is the same as any drug dealer,” said Prosecutor Worthy. “What is more disturbing is that he abused his position of trust as a pharmacist. If anyone has any knowledge that he is working as a pharmacist anywhere else, please notify the Michigan State Police immediately.”

David Olejarz, a spokesman for Henry Ford Hospital said in a statement, “This is an isolated case and in no way reflects the professional and reliable staff at Henry Ford Hospital who work in pharmacy. The suspect is no longer employed by Henry Ford, and the leadership at the hospital have taken all measures to prevent a similar situation from occurring.”

The arraignment will take place today at 1:30 p.m. in the 36<sup>th</sup> District located at 421 Madison Avenue in the City of Detroit.

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