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PROSECUTOR ISSUES CHARGES TEENS IN GROSSE POINTE CARJACKING

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy will charge two Detroit juveniles Lamont Dontae Ward, 16 and Eugene Woodall, Jr., 14 as adults in connection with the carjacking of Nancy Quinn, 63 and Mary Susan Eijsenck, 64 on 18010 Mack Avenue in Detroit. Ms. Quinn and Ms. Eijsenck are sister and residents of Ontario, Canada. They were in Grosse Pointe visiting a relative at the time.

On June 11, 2007 at 3:35 p.m. Ms. Quinn was exiting the driver's side of her white Ford Mustang when Mr. Ward allegedly took her keys and started the car. Mr. Woodall immediately got into the passenger side of the car. Ms. Quinn was standing in front of the car when Mr. Ward hit her as he was driving away at a high rate of speed. She was thrown onto the pavement and sustained head injuries requiring medical treatment. Ms. Eijsenck held on to the passenger side mirror and sustained abrasions on her legs when she was dragged as the car quickly pulled away.

Officers from Grosse Pointe City, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Detroit Police and the Wayne County Sheriff's Office were led on a high speed chase that reached speeds up to 90 miles per hour. Shortly after the crime occurred the car was found abandoned in a Detroit back yard. A citizen tip led all of the police agencies to a location on Beniteau. Grosse Pointe Police placed Mr. Ward and Mr. Woodall under arrest.

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Defendant Dontae Ward has been charged with one count of Carjacking and two counts of Assault With Intent to Murder, which each carry a maximum sentence of any term of years up to life in prison. He has also been charged with Unlawful Driving Away of an Automobile, which carries a maximum penalty of up to 5 years in prison; two counts of Felonious Assault, which carries a maximum penalty of up to 4 years in prison; and Fleeing and Eluding 3rd Degree, which carries a maximum penalty of up to 5 years in prison.

Defendant Eugene Woodall will be charged with one count of Carjacking, which carries a maximum penalty of any term of years up to life in prison. He has also been charged with Unlawful Driving Away of an Automobile, which carries a maximum penalty of up to 5 years in prison with out parole.

“The decision to charge juvenile offenders as adults is one of the most difficult decisions that we have to make. It is always done on a case-by-case basis evaluating the facts and circumstances involved. The 14 year old defendant has been in the juvenile system before and it is clear that he has not benefited from what that system has to offer,” said Prosecutor Worthy.

“The 16 year old defendant engaged in a high speed chase hitting one woman and dragging another at a high rate of speed. We are lucky that both women were not killed.”

Detective Ronald Wieczorek of the Grosse Pointe Police Department said, “This is a brutal attack on two women who came to our community. It must be stressed that this crime endangered many other people as the defendants fled through neighborhoods in Grosse Pointe and Detroit to escape apprehension.”

The arraignment will take place today at 5:30 p.m. in Grosse Pointe Municipal Court, located at 17147 Maumee, in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Please contact Detective Ronald Wieczorek, (313) 886-3200 to confirm the time of the arraignment.

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