



KYM L. WORTHY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Richard D. Hathaway,
Chief Assistant
Donn Fresard, Chief of Staff

COUNTY OF WAYNE
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

1200 FRANK MURPHY HALL OF JUSTICE
1441 ST. ANTOINE STREET
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-2302
TEL: (313) 224-5777
FAX: (313) 224-0974

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Contact: Maria Miller
Wayne County Prosecutor's Office
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
(313) 224-5817
(313) 213-0457
mmiller@co.wayne.mi.us

PROSECUTOR CHARGES MOTHER IN EXTORTION SCHEME

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy charged Charla Nunlee, 21 and Christopher Hill, 18, both of Detroit in connection with the May 8, 2007 fictitious missing child report.

On May 8, 2007 at approximately 9:15 p.m., Ms. Nunlee told her mother that a gold van approached her in the area of Rosemont and Wadsworth in Detroit. She alleged that the driver of the van slapped her, took her two-year old child and told her that when he got his \$10,000 he would return the child. An Amber alert was issued and extensive police resources were utilized in an effort to find the missing child. The child was subsequently found unharmed in the care of Mr. Hill. The alleged motive was an attempt to stage a kidnapping in order to obtain \$10,000 from Ms. Nunlee's mother.

Both defendants have been charged with: Conspiracy to Commit Extortion, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years; Conspiracy to Commit False Pretenses, which carries a maximum penalty of five years; Filing a False Report of a Felony, which carries a maximum penalty of four years; and, Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, a misdemeanor which carries a 90-day penalty.

"No matter how desperate a parent is for money there is never an excuse for using a child as a pawn to extort money," said Prosecutor Worthy.

The arraignment will take place today at 5:00 p.m. in the 36th District located at 421 Madison Avenue in the City of Detroit. Please confirm the arraignment time with the Detroit Police Department.

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