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Press Release
March 19, 2008
Two Pages

For Immediate Release

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CHARGES ISSUED IN DEATH OF TWO-YEAR-OLD ***Charred Remains of Child Were Hidden In Basement Ceiling***

Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy has charged Joseph Miller, III, 28 and Nickello L. Reid, 23 both of Detroit in connection with the death of their two-year-old male child in 2007. The couple allegedly attempted to conceal the death of their child by burning his remains on a home barbeque grill. On November 22, 2007 members of the Detroit Police Department Homicide Section were called to a home in the 15000 block of Lapin where they discovered the burned remains of a child in a plastic bag hidden in the basement ceiling. The medical examiner determined the cause and manner of death to be inconclusive. An examination of the remains by forensic anthropologists revealed that the child suffered from malnutrition, disease and abuse.

Joseph Miller, III and Nickello Reid have been charged with: Felony Murder, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison without parole; Involuntary Manslaughter, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison; Child Abuse 1st Degree, which carries a maximum penalty of up to 15 years in prison; Mutilation of a Dead Body, which carries a maximum penalty of up to 10 years in prison; and, Welfare Fraud over \$500.00, which carries a maximum penalty of up to 4 years in prison.

Additionally, Ms. Reid has been charged with another count of Welfare Fraud over \$500.00 and two counts of Failure to Inform, each of which carry a maximum penalty of up to 4 years in prison. Ms. Reid was charged with Failure to Inform because she allegedly failed to inform authorities that her child was deceased while she continued to collect assistance money from the State of Michigan on his behalf. Ms. Reid's mother, Doretha Lippett, 51 of Detroit has also been charged with two counts of Welfare Fraud over \$500.00 for her role in allegedly assisting her daughter in collecting the money.

Mr. Miller and Ms. Reid have already been charged with Child Abuse in a pending case in 36th District Court.

"It is very difficult to think of an innocent child suffering so profoundly during his two years on earth," said Prosecutor Worthy.

Wayne County Deputy Chief Prosecuting Attorney Jerry Dorsey, IV will try the case. Lt. Dwayne Blackmond represented the Detroit Police Department at the press conference today.

Today Mr. Miller, Ms. Reid and Ms. Lippett will be arraigned in 36th District Court, 421 Madison Avenue in Detroit at 1:30 in the afternoon.

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