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Lead Poisoning Violation Gets Landlord Charged

Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy charged landlord Paul Mashni with a crime for failing to clean up lead-based paint in his apartment complex located at 19204 Rockcastle in Harper Woods, Michigan. Mashni has been charged under MCL 333.2441 for violating Environmental Health Code 750. Under Michigan law this carries a 90-day jail term and/or a \$200 fine per occurrence.

The investigation and filing of charges are part of a crackdown on landlords who failed to repair lead-based paint contamination after inspectors have notified them of the hazard. This is a collaborative effort by the Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, the Wayne County Department of Public Health and Environmental Health Division, as well as the Wayne County Consumer Protection Task Force.

Prosecutor Worthy stated: "This is a serious problem. This case certainly merited criminal charges. Lead poisoning crosses all racial and economic barriers. We must do everything we can to ensure the safety of our children."

The date for the arraignment is November 15, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. before Judge Roger LaRose of 32nd District Court located at 19617 Harper in Harper Woods, Michigan.

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