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Press Release
October 10, 2006
Five Pages

For Immediate Release

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MICHAEL HELVEY CHARGED IN FRAUDULENT CHARITY SCHEME

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy announced charges against Michael John Helvey, 55, of Lincoln Park in connection with an alleged charity event he organized to "benefit the work of the mentally challenged" according to a flyer he published under the name of the Wyandotte Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Helvey incorporated the non-profit Wyandotte Chamber of Commerce and made himself the director in 2006.

Mr. Helvey marketed it as a "dream cruise" event that would take place during June 23, 24 and 25, 2006 on Fort Street in Southgate. He advertised a Detroit Lions pep rally, live music, tent parties, NASCAR participation, free pizza and a pig roast. The vendors were induced to participate because they were told the event was a fund-raiser for ARC Downriver (Associated Retarded Citizens), a charity for disabled children. It should be noted that ARC Downriver had absolutely no association with Mr. Helvey or the event. The vendors were paid for their services with a number of non-sufficient fund checks allegedly issued by Michael Helvey.

Mr. Helvey even asked the Lincoln Park Cheerleaders and Mills Gymnastics, a group of junior Olympians to perform, promising them free trips to Cedar Point. The cheerleaders and the gymnasts both received checks for \$250 that bounced.

The vendors contacted Southgate Detective Sgt. Kasper Ohannasian in June 2006 when he received information that the Wyandotte Chamber of Commerce was passing bad checks. Due to the cooperation of the vendors he was able to present three warrant requests for multiple charges against Helvey.

“Michael Helvey is the con artist’s con artist. In this case he attempted to con retarded children, cheerleaders and aspiring junior Olympians, said Prosecutor Worthy. You just can’t get lower than that.”

Prosecutor Worthy has issued the following charges:

CHARGES AGAINST MICHAEL HELVEY

COMPLAINT ONE SEVEN COUNTS HABITUAL 4TH NOTICE

<u>Count</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Complaint & Allegation</u>	<u>Charges</u>
1	6/22/06 – 06/25/06	Under Cover Rentals (William Van Wasshenova) received NSF check for \$1,121.00 payment for tents, tables and chairs.	NSF check written over \$500 – MCL 1313(c). Penalty two years and/or \$2,000 or 3 times the amount payable.
2	6/22/06 – 06/25/06	Sysco Foods, Catering (Andrew Laesser) received NSF check for \$2,105.57 for food services.	NSF check written over \$500 – MCL 1313(c). Penalty two years and/or \$2,000 or 3 times the amount payable.
3	6/22/06 – 06/25/06	Family Recipe Catering (Lisa Kuehnlein) received NSF check for \$2,100.00 for food service.	NSF check written over \$500 – MCL 1313(c). Penalty two years and/or \$2,000 or 3 times the amount payable.

<u>Count</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Complaint & Allegation</u>	<u>Charges</u>
4	6/22/06 – 06/25/06	Ray's Prime Meats (Kenneth Bennet) received NSF check for \$961.00 for food.	NSF check written over \$500 – MCL 1313(c). Penalty two years and/or \$2,000 or 3 times the amount payable.
5	6/22/06 – 06/25/06	Constances Ettinger, comedian received NSF check for \$600.00 for entertainment.	NSF check written over \$500 – MCL 1313(c). Penalty two years and/or \$2,000 or 3 times the amount payable.
6	6/22/06 – 06/25/06	Coca Cola Distributing Company received NSF check for \$955.36 for beverages.	NSF check written over \$500 – MCL 1313(c). Penalty two years and/or \$2,000 or 3 times the amount payable.
7	6/22/06 – 06/25/06	Wailin' Dale & the D.T.'s (Greg Blankenship) received NSF check for \$450.00 for entertainment; Victory Racing (David Hadyniak) received \$500.00 NSF check for NASCAR vehicle display; and, Polly Kenzie received NSF check for \$350.00 for karaoke machine rental.	NSF 3 in 10 days – MCL 750.131A2. Penalty two years or \$500.
		Habitual Offender – Fourth Offense Notice	The defendant was previously convicted of three or more felonies and is subject to penalties provided by MCL 769.12. The penalty is 15 years or less.

**COMPLAINT TWO
ONE COUNT**

<u>Count</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Complaint & Allegation</u>	<u>Charges</u>
1	06/23/06	Giles Rainey of Southgate was allegedly punched in the mouth.	Assault & Battery – MCL 750.81. Penalty – 93 days and or \$500.

**COMPLAINT THREE
TWO COUNTS
HABITUAL 4TH NOTICE**

<u>Count</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Complaint & Allegation</u>	<u>Charges</u>
1	06/23/06	Mills Gymnastics received NSF check for \$250.00 to pay for the appearance of Junior Olympic Athletes. Lincoln Park Cheerleaders (Kelly Shock) received NSF check for \$250.00 for cheerleaders to perform. Jerry Koss received NSF check for \$350.00 for display of new Chevrolets.	NSF 3 in 10 days – MCL 750.131A2. Penalty two years or \$500.
2	6/22/06 – 06/25/06	Marvin Meyers received NSF check for \$1,000.00 to rent parking lot at 15200 Fort Street for the weekend of June 23 – 25, 2006.	NSF check written over \$500 – MCL 1313(c). Penalty two years and/or \$2,000 or 3 times the amount payable.
		Habitual Offender – Fourth Offense Notice	The defendant was previously convicted of three or more felonies and is subject to penalties provided by MCL 769.12. The penalty is 15 years or less.

Mr. Helvey is currently on probation to Judge David Groner for a non-sufficient funds conviction that occurred on March 27, 2006. Interestingly, he was prohibited from writing and using checks as part of his sentence.

The arraignment will take place at 28th District Court located at 14720 Reaume Parkway, Southgate, Michigan at 3:00 p.m. today before Judge James Kandrevas.

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