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# **NEWS RELEASE**

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***INTERNET SCAM ARTIST ARRAIGNED FOR EIGHT FELONY  
COUNTS OF EBAY FRAUD INVOLVING VICTIMS FROM FLORIDA,  
CALIFORNIA AND NEW MEXICO***

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January 20, 2005 - District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham today announced the arraignment January 18, 2005 of Donald Morabito, 55 years old, 7226 Oxford Avenue, Philadelphia. The bills of information charged Morabito with eight counts of Theft by Unlawful Taking, Theft by Deception, Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds Received, Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, Unlawful Use of Computer and Criminal Use of Communication Facility. If convicted, Morabito faces a maximum of fifty-six years imprisonment and fines of up to \$120,000.

“Shopping on eBay is a part of everyday life for many people in Philadelphia and across the country. This case is an example of the growing number of internet frauds and scams that would separate honest people from their money, and we will vigorously prosecute this case,” said District Attorney Lynne Abraham.

The evidence at the preliminary hearing revealed that Morabito had engaged in a pattern of creating a listing on eBay for Apple Powerbook computers (and in one case, a plasma television), accepting the money and then never sending the goods to the victims. The buyers are located in various states across the country.

The District Attorney's Office confirmed that although the arrest warrant had been issued in December 2002, Morabito was not apprehended until May 17, 2004. The District Attorney's Office will be working together with eBay to coordinate the details of this complex prosecution.