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NEWS RELEASE

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Lynne Abraham, District Attorney of Philadelphia, today announced that a County Investigating Grand Jury has recommended the arrest of Richard Gottfried, Ronald Miller, Mary Beth McNichol, and Margaret Porter.

The Grand Jury found that Richard Gottfried, a self-described sentencing mitigation specialist; Ronald Miller, a criminal investigator; Mary Beth McNichol, the paramour of Richard Gottfried; and Margaret Porter engaged in a criminal enterprise of submitting and receiving payment for fraudulent expert witness payment vouchers. According to the Presentment issued by the Grand Jury, this pattern of deceptive and fraudulent activity caused the City of Philadelphia to pay over \$300,000 in bogus expert witness vouchers. In addition, Ronald Miller submitted over two hundred fraudulent criminal investigator payment vouchers for which he received in excess of \$73,000.

The Grand Jury unanimously recommended that Gottfried and Miller each be charged with corrupt organizations, forgery, criminal conspiracy, theft by deception, tampering with public records, and bribery, all felony offenses. It also unanimously recommended that McNichol and Porter each be charged with corrupt organizations, forgery, criminal conspiracy, theft by deception, and tampering with public records, all felony offenses. If convicted of all charges, Richard Gottfried faces a maximum sentence of 256 ½ to 513 years in prison; Ronald Miller faces a maximum sentence of 222 ½ to 445 years in prison; Mary Beth McNichol faces a maximum sentence of 74 ½ to 149 years in prison; and

Margaret Porter faces a maximum sentence of 49 to 98 years in prison.

In another separate investigation, the County Investigating Grand Jury has recommended that felony charges be filed against former Philadelphia Traffic Court employee Amato Rullo.

Rullo is alleged to have received bribes totaling approximately \$4,050 from six civilians between January 1, 2000 and March 3, 2004 in return for promises to fix their outstanding traffic tickets. Rullo was in fact employed in the traffic court mailroom. All of the complainants' tickets remained outstanding and their money was never returned. Rullo's activities came to light on March 3, 2004 when Fox News broadcast undercover footage of him accepting cash outside of Philadelphia Traffic Court from an undercover producer in return for promises to fix traffic tickets.

The Grand Jury unanimously recommended that six counts of bribery, theft by deception, and receiving stolen property respectively be filed against Rullo. Each count of bribery is a felony of the third degree while all of the theft and receiving stolen property counts are first-degree misdemeanors. If convicted of all charges, Rullo faces a maximum sentence of 36 to 72 years in prison.