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NEWS RELEASE

Date: November 13, 2007
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**District Attorney's Insurance Fraud Unit
Charges Philadelphia Resident with
62 counts of Insurance Fraud, 22 counts of Identity Theft and related crimes**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

District Attorney Lynne Abraham and Linda Perkins, Chief, Insurance Fraud Unit, today announce the arrest of Keith Lewis, 41, of the 5400 block of Erdrick Street in Philadelphia. Mr. Lewis is charged as follows:

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| Insurance Fraud 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 4117-F3 | 62 Counts |
| Theft by Deception 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 3922-F3 | 5 Counts |
| Theft by Deception 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 3922-M1 | 12 Counts |
| Attempt Theft by Deception 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 3922-F3 | 7 Counts |
| Attempt Theft by Deception 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 3922-M1 | 38 Counts |
| Identity Theft 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 4120-F3 | 22 Counts |
| Securing the Execution of Documents 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 4114-M2 | 17 Counts |

From February 2002 thru May 2003, Lewis obtained four (4) separate automobile insurance policies with Progressive Insurance Company for vehicles registered in his name. In each case, he provided initial premium payments drawn from banks accounts with insufficient funds. Within days of policy inception and prior to Progressive discovering the lack of funds to cover the premium payments, Lewis filed four (4) separate damage claims reporting that his newly insured vehicle had been vandalized or struck while parked on the street. Progressive Insurance Company ultimately denied each of Lewis' claims due to insufficient funds to cover the initial premium payments. Progressive subsequently reported all four matters to the District Attorney's Insurance Fraud Unit.

Investigators assigned to the District Attorney's Insurance Fraud Unit subsequently uncovered seventy (70) additional insurance claims involving Keith Lewis, from 1999 to July 2007, filed with various insurance companies including AIG, Allstate, Geico, Progressive, Safe Auto, Safeco, and Unitrin Direct. Further investigation revealed that on at least sixty (60) occasions, Lewis obtained an insurance policy with a fraudulent down payment. Within days of "purchasing" coverage, Lewis filed an insurance claim alleging minor damage to one of several "insured" vehicles. In all instances, he sought a quick settlement of the claim clearly in an effort to obtain payment before the insurance company discovered that they had not received a valid premium payment. Investigators also discovered that Lewis' claims relied on preexisting damage to his vehicles. Investigators have documented forty (40) phony claims on Lewis' 2002 Ford Explorer, eleven (11) phony claims on his 1997 Chrysler Town and Country, six (6) phony claims on his 2001 Mitsubishi Eclipse, and five (5) phony claims on a 2000 Toyota Camry owned by his girlfriend.

In addition, in twenty-two (22) of the claims, Lewis obtained "coverage" and filed claims using the identity of an innocent victim. This individual does not know Lewis and was unaware that his identity had been compromised.

Lewis also repeatedly identified himself as a police officer, an accountant, a bounty hunter, a bank manager, a salesman, and entertainment business person. It is alleged that in an effort to expedite one of his many claims, Lewis posed as a soldier in the armed services facing immediate deployment overseas. Lewis is not in the United States military.

In sum, Lewis received over \$29,000 in settlement on seventeen (17) fraudulent insurance claims. An additional forty-five (45) claims worth over \$120,000 were denied.

The Philadelphia District Attorney's Insurance Fraud Unit is fully funded by state grants administered by the Pennsylvania Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority. The Unit began operations in 1996 and has made over 990 arrests for insurance fraud and related offenses involving over \$18.2 million in fraudulent insurance claims.

Penalties:

- Felonies of the first degree (F1) are punishable by a maximum of twenty (20) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$25,000 each count.
- Felonies of the second degree (F2) are punishable by a maximum of ten (10) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$25,000 each count.
- Felonies of the third degree (F3) are punishable by a maximum of seven (7) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$15,000 each count.
- Misdemeanors of the first degree (M1) are punishable by a maximum of five (5) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$7,500 each count.
- Misdemeanors of the second degree (M2) are punishable by a maximum of two (2) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$5,000 each count.
- Misdemeanors of the third degree (M3) are punishable by a maximum of one (1) years in prison for each count and fine not to exceed \$2,500 each count.