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NEWS RELEASE

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Two Philadelphia Police Officers Charged with Aggravated Assault of a Civilian

Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham and Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey today announced the filing of charges against two Philadelphia Police Officers: Sheldon Fitzgerald, badge # 3998, of the 25th District and Howard Hill III, badge # 2787, of the 25th District. They are each charged with the following offenses:

Aggravated Assault (F1), 18 Pa.C.S. § 2702

Simple Assault (M1), 18 Pa.C.S. § 2701

Recklessly Endangering Another Person (M2), 18 Pa.C.S. § 2705

Tampering With Public Records (M2), 18 Pa.C.S. § 4911

Conspiracy (F1), 18 Pa.C.S. § 903

The charges are the result of a joint investigation by the District Attorney's Office and the Philadelphia Police Department Internal Affairs Division. It is alleged that, at approximately 12:30 AM on August 26, 2007, Officers Fitzgerald and Hill were on patrol in a marked police car when they encountered a 36 year old male who was spray painting graffiti on a wall in the area of 4th Street and Wyoming Avenue in Philadelphia. The male fled on foot when Officers Fitzgerald and Hill approached him. Officers Fitzgerald and Hill caught the male and allegedly beat him with their fists striking him repeatedly in the face and ribs. The male was also allegedly kicked in the groin during the incident. It

is further alleged that Officers Fitzgerald and Hill handcuffed the male and threw him head first into the back seat of their patrol car.

In addition, it is alleged that Officers Fitzgerald and Hill took the male's identification and ran a check on the male for outstanding warrants using the Mobile Data Terminal in their patrol car. When this inquiry came back negative, they released the male in the area of 3rd Street and Wyoming Avenue. The male was taken to Albert Einstein Medical Center by friends, where he was admitted and received surgery to repair a broken jaw that he sustained as a result of the alleged assault. It was necessary to wire the male's jaw shut for five weeks in order for it to heal properly. The male also lost three teeth.

Finally, it is alleged that Officers Fitzgerald and Hill did not document their contact with the male in any way, and that they made a false entry in their patrol log showing that they were at another location at the time of the incident.

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