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**For Immediate Release – October 5, 2004**

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Public Information  
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**RE:** Seven Indicted for Racketeering and Theft of Money Orders

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First Judicial District Attorney Dave Thomas announced today that the Grand Jury has returned indictments against two men and five women for their alleged involvement in a scheme involving the theft and fraudulent cashing of blank money orders. Three of the seven have been indicted for violation of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act, also known as racketeering, a class two felony. They are Nigel Lurrell Clay, DOB: 10-2-71, of Wichita, Kansas; Vandy Michell Alexander, DOB; 11-15-75, of Aurora; and Laquana Alexander, DOB; 10-27-75, of Aurora. A class two felony carries with it a possible prison sentence of between eight and 24 years.

Four others, April Ranee Harper, DOB: 12-31-68, of Denver; Jacqueline Bland, DOB: 4-19-56, of Englewood; Sandra Foster, DOB; 1-28-55, of Denver; and James Carril Brown, DOB: 6-20-44, transient, have been indicted on one count each of felony theft (between \$500 and \$15,000), a class four felony and one count each of conspiracy to commit theft (of greater than \$15,000), a class four felony. A class four felony carries with it a possible prison sentence of from two to six years.

Clay is alleged to have stolen 400 blank money orders from a company he worked for in Oklahoma. According to the indictment, he is alleged to

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have contacted Vandy Alexander, a long-time associate, who lived in Aurora, and who agreed to assist in passing some of the stolen money orders for a portion of the funds obtained. Vandy Alexander is then alleged to have contacted a long time acquaintance, Laquana Alexander, who worked at the customer service desk of the King Soopers at 655 Peoria in Aurora. According to the indictment, Laquana Alexander agreed to cash some of the stolen money orders in exchange for a portion of the proceeds. In June, 2004, \$13,500 in fraudulent money orders were cashed at the King Soopers. The other indicted, Harper, Bland, Foster, and Brown, are alleged to have presented the fraudulent money orders and cashed them.

On June 17, 2004, one or more of the members of the group are further alleged to have gone to the Wild Card Casino in Black Hawk, where they cashed \$4,000 in stolen money orders at the casino.

This enterprise came to the attention of the Black Hawk Police Department in June, 2004. Black Hawk contacted the Colorado Bureau of Investigation who began work on this multi-jurisdictional investigation in June. It appears to investigators that this illegal enterprise may have been conducted in Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Arkansas, as well as Colorado. During the course of this investigation, the CBI traveled to Oklahoma and Kansas to work with officials there in an attempt to shut down this activity and hold the parties accountable. The investigation is still ongoing in Oklahoma and Kansas. A total of 109 checks have been passed, 35 of those were passed in Colorado.

Nigel Clay is currently in custody at the Gilpin County Detention Center. Arrest warrants have been issued for the V. Alexander, L. Alexander, Harper, Bland, Foster and Brown.

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