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For Immediate Release – August 17, 2005

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Public Information
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RE: Jeffco Grand Jury Indicts Seven for Identify Theft

First Judicial District Attorney Scott Storey announced today that seven members of an alleged identity theft and forgery ring have been indicted by the Jefferson County Grand Jury for racketeering under Colorado's Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA). The indictment alleges that Nathaniel Harris (DOB 3/1/77), Kasiani Konstantinidis (DOB 1/3/81), Aimee Carpenter (DOB 9/4/1973), Janet Garcia (DOB 8/10/1961), Theresa Ellenberg (DOB 6/6/63), Al Houston (DOB 12/24/63) and Geneva Sanders (DOB 2/16/87) worked together in a criminal enterprise that stole personal and business financial information from more than 30 individuals and small businesses displaying works of art at various artists' exhibitions. The financial information was then used to manufacture phony payroll checks and personal checks that were passed at banks and retail merchants throughout the Denver area in late 2004 and early 2005. The total loss alleged in the indictment is about \$50,000.

The indictment also lists sixty other felony counts, charging various members of the criminal enterprise with Theft, Forgery, Criminal Impersonation and Computer Crime.

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If convicted under the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act, the seven racketeering defendants face a presumptive sentencing range of eight to 24 years in prison, five years of mandatory parole and a maximum fine of one million dollars. Additional penalties could be imposed for the other felonies.

Five of the seven have been arrested. Garcia has an advisement set on 8/29 at 8:00 in Division 7 of the Jefferson County District Court. Ellenberg, Houston and Sanders have advisements scheduled for 8/18 at 8:00 in the same division. Carpenter has been arrested, but a first appearance date is not yet available. Arrest warrants are outstanding for Harris and Konstantinidis.

The investigation was a joint effort of the Lakewood Police Department and the District Attorney's Office, and marks one of the first indictments returned by the new, county grand jury authorized for Jefferson County and empanelled in June, 2005.

"Identity theft crimes are a high priority for this office," said District Attorney Scott Storey. "The personal and financial impact from these crimes touches the whole community, from individuals to small businesses to large corporations."

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