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Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force

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JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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GRAND JURY INDICTMENT BUSTS UP MAJOR AUTO THEFT/DRUG RING

A Denver Grand Jury has returned a 103-count indictment naming 8 co-defendants in a major auto theft ring that targeted victims across the Denver metro area. The indictment is the result of a year-long investigation.

Tiffany Nicole Weaver (01-03-89), **Levi Gregory Yazzie** (01-26-82) and **Harold Ernest Margeson** (12-09-69) are all charged with violating the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA) and numerous other counts including conspiracy to commit aggravated motor vehicle theft, conspiracy to commit theft, burglary and criminal trespass. Weaver is charged with 83 counts, Yazzie is charged with 70 counts and Margeson is charged with 13 counts.

Five others are also facing numerous similar counts including burglary and aggravated motor vehicle theft.

The indictment alleges that for more than a year the group worked together to burglarize apartment and condominium parking garages and steal cars or break into cars. The group is accused of then using stolen personal information to commit additional crimes including forgery and credit card fraud. The indictment alleges that their common goal was to buy, sell, trade and barter stolen property and money in exchange for controlled substances, primarily methamphetamine. There are approximately 70 victims with identified losses of about \$578,000.

Margeson is in custody in the Denver County Jail. Weaver and another defendant are in custody in the Arapahoe County Jail; their first court appearance has not yet been set. The others remain at large (see attached information sheet).

The Grand Jury indictment is the result of a year-long investigation conducted by the National Insurance Crime Bureau and the Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force, which is made up of members from the Denver District Attorney's Office Economic Crime Unit, Denver Police Department, Lakewood Police Department, Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Arvada Police Department, Wheat Ridge Police Department and the Westminster Police Department. The Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force (MATT) is a multi-jurisdictional investigative team funded by the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA).

Additional defendant information

Tiffany Nicole Weaver (01-03-89) – in custody

Harold Ernest Margeson (12-11-67) – in custody

Tara Lynn Massey (10-30-85) – in custody

Levi Gregory Yazzie (01-26-82) – wanted

Scott Wayne Pernesky (10-05-70) – wanted

Justin Dean Nelson (01-15-82) – wanted

Marc Philip Falkenhan (03-31-82) – wanted

Lee Deon Ellis (02-07-86) – wanted

Anyone with information about those still at large should call 911 or local law enforcement.