



**Oct. 21, 2008**

**News Release**

District Attorney's Public Information Office:  
Donna Hawkins  
George Flynn  
713-755-3320

**DA Funds Almost \$1 Million in Area Law Enforcement Upgrades**

Houston TX – Harris County District Attorney Kenneth Magidson received Commissioners Court authorization Tuesday (Oct. 21) to pay nearly \$1 million for enhanced equipment and related upgrades for several area police agencies.

**Agencies include Texas Parks & Wildlife, Precincts 1 and 7 Constables, and police departments in West University Place, the Memorial Villages, Houston and Seabrook.**

Magidson noted that the disbursements enable law enforcement agencies to enhance public safety and investigations without burdening taxpayers. Improvements will be financed through the DA's Asset Forfeiture Fund. That is the DA's share of money seized from criminals engaged in drug dealing, gambling, prostitution and other illicit activities.

More than \$6 million has now been allocated from the DA's Asset Fund for law enforcement improvements in the last six months.

Payments approved Tuesday include:

- \*\* **\$146,000 to Seabrook** police for audio-visual equipment to assist in investigations.
- \*\* **\$134,700 to Constable Precinct 7** for camera equipment and evidence lockers.
- \*\* **\$128,700 to Houston police** for highly sophisticated drug analysis equipment
- \*\* **\$123,400 to Memorial Villages police** for advanced fingerprint equipment, infra-red cameras, computers and software.
- \*\* **\$119,500 to Constable Precinct 1** for bulletproof vests and patrol car cameras
- \*\* **\$98,300 to West University police** for digital car equipment, a portable automated fingerprinting system, and bulletproof vests.

The DA's Office itself received \$111,800 for interview equipment upgrades, \$84,600 for scanners to reduce records storage needs, and \$48,000 for two investigation vehicles.

Also on Tuesday, Magidson presented a \$50,000 Asset Fund check to Pasadena Independent School District police. It will be used for software and equipment for the Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which helps protect young people from online predators.

(End)