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Restitution Theft: Losses to be Covered, Enhanced Process in Place

Houston, Tx – A former administrative assistant in the Harris County District Attorney’s Office and her husband were arrested and charged Friday with felony theft. Eloise Mireles was charged with theft by a public servant of more than \$200,000 that was allegedly diverted from victim restitution funds over the last seven years. Daniel Mireles was charged with theft of more than \$100,000 for his alleged part in that same scheme.

The charges followed an extensive internal investigation by the District Attorney’s Office. Mireles, a 16-year employee of the Office, had been assigned to the Victims’ Rights Division from 2001 until her termination on Aug. 20. She had been charged on Aug. 26 with stealing more than \$1,000. The Division provides extensive assistance to crime victims, and accepts court-ordered restitution from defendants for payment to their victims.

As warranted by the nature of the case, Special Prosecutor Lee Cox has been appointed by the court. Cox has full authority over the evidence, the investigation, and the release of any information in the case. (See [this link for the statement](#) by Cox on the case.)

Harris County District Attorney Patricia Lykos has made it a priority to fully compensate earlier victims for any remaining unpaid restitution stemming from the alleged theft. Funds have been secured and are available to cover all losses.

Soon after taking office Jan. 1, Lykos promptly acted on earlier recommendations by new Division Director Michelle Permenter to significantly upgrade the restitution payment process. Foremost was the elimination of longstanding deficiencies in tracking and accountability of funds. The Division modernized the system to provide real-time auditing and expedited restitution payments.

This enhanced system also provides online search capabilities for all victims with unclaimed restitution. It has enabled the Victims’ Rights Division to pay an unprecedented \$3.6 million to crime victims in 2009. (Details of the upgrades are [available at this link](#) on the District Attorney’s Web site.)

Meanwhile, the District Attorney’s Office continues to assist the Special Prosecutor in every way regarding the investigation and prosecution of this criminal case. (end)