

DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Nov. 19, 2008

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Katy ISD Cheerleaders Indicted on Misdemeanor Hazing Charges

(Houston, TX) – A Harris County grand jury indicted seven Morton Ranch High School varsity cheerleaders on misdemeanor charges Wednesday for allegedly hazing junior varsity cheerleaders in an off-campus incident last July 25.

The seven are accused of restraining several junior varsity cheerleaders, blindfolding them, binding their hands and pushing them into a swimming pool.

The hazing charges state they engaged in reckless conduct that endangered the mental and physical health and safety of junior varsity cheerleaders. Their actions were for the purpose of having the junior cheerleaders "pledging, being initiated into, and affiliating with the cheerleaders" at the high school, the charges state.

Conviction for the Class B Misdemeanor can carry punishment ranging from probation and community service, up to a maximum of six months in jail and fine of \$2,000.

Katy Independent School District police initiated the investigation, which was referred to grand jurors for their consideration.

Harris County District Attorney Kenneth Magidson said the grand jury asked for and received information generated by that investigation. "After receipt of all relevant evidence, the grand jury true-billed the charges presented today," he said.

These are believed to be the first cases filed in Harris County under the state's antihazing law, which was enacted in 1995.

Defendants are Kelly Buffa, 17; Hannah Cochran, 18; Halely Davis, 17; Kirsten Davis, 17; Adelynn Garner, 18; Meigan Goff, 18; and Madison Tanner, 17.

Summonses to appear in court will be issued to the defendants. (End)