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NEWS RELEASE

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Driver in Crash at Oakland Mall Passes Away from Injuries

Ms. Prathiba Gunaseelan, a 33-year-old female from Rochester Hills died of injuries sustained in part when she crashed her 2003 Toyota Camry at Oakland Mall at approximately 5:41 a.m. on Monday, September 20, 2004. Troy Police and Fire personnel were called to the scene after Oakland Mall Security Officers discovered the car crashed into a brick landscape retaining wall that abuts the west side of the J.C. Penny store. Ms. Gunaseelan was semi-conscious when responding police officers arrived. Extrication by the Troy Fire Department was required. Alliance Mobile Health paramedics transported her to Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital where she passed away at approximately 10:05 p.m. last evening. There was no evidence of braking found at the scene. There were no skid marks. The driver was not seat belted. A witness described a car driving through the mall lots erratically and at approximately 50 mph prior to the crash. There is no indication alcohol is involved, however investigators are awaiting toxicology reports which will provide a final determination in that regard. Oakland County Sheriff Detectives who responded to the driver's residence in Rochester Hills discovered evidence suggesting this was a deliberate act on the part of the driver to harm herself, rather than a traffic accident. The J.C. Penny building itself sustained no damage.

A large, faint watermark of the Michigan State Seal is visible in the background of the page. It features a figure holding a scale and a sword, with the word "MICHIGAN" written below it.

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