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NEWS RELEASE

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Protect Your Identity Shredding Event

On Saturday, October 16, 2004 from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. a shredding event will be held at the Oakland Mall in Troy. This event is co-sponsored by the City of Troy Police Department, The Oakland Mall, and Secure Eco-Shred. Secure Eco Shred will be providing free shredding and disposal of confidential documents. Shredding will be available in the parking lot between Marshall Field's and JC Penny, which is located on the northwest section of the mall proper. The Mall is located on 14 Mile Road east of I-75 in Troy. Citizens are invited to bring up to two file drawer boxes of material for shredding and disposal. There is no need to remove staples or paper clips.

Troy Police Officer Jay Reynolds will be on hand to answer questions, provide tips, and distribute hand-outs on the issues of identity theft and credit fraud. Officer Reynolds is one of the department's experts in this area. In fact, he has received statewide acclaim for his efforts to train both law enforcement officers and private sector loss prevention personnel on how to prevent, detect, investigate, and prosecute credit fraud suspects.

Identity theft and credit fraud crimes represent some of the most significant challenges for not only law enforcement, but the community as a whole in the 21st century. This challenge is reflected not only in terms of loss and victimization to individuals and business, but also the drain inflicted on the productive aspects of the overall economy. A recent study by the Federal Trade Commission estimates that 10 million Americans were victimized by identity theft last year. Once an individual's identity is stolen, it can take years to recover.

Saturday's event represents both an active, as well as symbolic statement in terms of education and prevention. Maintaining personal privacy by preventing confidential information from getting into the hands of criminals is one method to protect against becoming a victim of this crime. By engaging in an on-going and consistent effort to destroy used documents that contain personal information, individuals and businesses can have a realistic impact in the fight against these crimes.

The Troy Police Department is pleased to participate for the third year in a row with both the Oakland Mall and Secure Eco Shred in this event. Specific inquiries on the event, as well as the issues at hand can be directed to Officer Jay Reynolds at 248-680-7225.