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NEWS RELEASE

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Troy Police Seeking Armed Robbery Suspect – Arrest Warrant Issued

On January 31, 2005 at approximately 10:07 a.m. the victim was approached by the suspect in the parking lot of the Standard Federal Bank branch located on 14 Mile at Oakland Mall. The victim was attempting to make a bank deposit from the business she manages. As she was walking toward the bank, a white 2005 Ford Expedition drove toward her. The suspect exited the vehicle, and demanded the deposit. He kept his right hand in his pocket, implying he was armed, although no gun was seen. He grabbed the deposit from the victim and re-entered the vehicle, which fled. Another black male was driving. Responding officers located the suspect vehicle behind a business east of the mall on the south side of 14 Mile. Additional information was developed indicating that the suspects abandoned the SUV in that lot and fled in a car they had left at that location. The investigation revealed that vehicle was an older, light brown or rust colored car, possibly a Honda with the right front headlight missing. The vehicle had several areas of rust on it. Troy detectives shared the suspect and suspect vehicle information with other area departments. In early February, a Detroit Police Department investigator familiar with the Troy case was reviewing reports, when he noted an incident in Detroit involving a similar car. In that case, Detroit Officers attempted to stop a 1989 brown Honda Accord for routine traffic, when it fled. It eventually stopped, the driver was arrested, but the passengers ran. One of the passengers was caught, arrested, identified, and released pending further investigation. The DPD Detective contacted the Troy Detective in charge of the case with the vehicle and suspect information. Forensic evidence recovered from the Troy crime scene provided evidence that positively identified the passenger in the Detroit case as the armed robbery suspect in the Troy case. The case was presented to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office who authorized an arrest warrant charging **Charles Ray Smith, a 19 year old male from Highland Park** with Armed Robbery. Mr. Smith is described as 5'9" – 5'10" and weighs approximately 195 lbs. Mr. Smith remains at large and is considered dangerous. The Troy Police Department is seeking assistance in locating and arresting Mr. Smith. His accomplice in the Troy robbery remains at large, as well. Anyone who might know of Mr. Smith's or his accomplice's location is asked to either call their local law enforcement agency, or the Troy Police Department at **248-524-3477**. Individuals interested in a reward should call **Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAKUP**. All callers can remain anonymous whether they call Crime Stoppers or a police department. The attached photos are of Mr. Smith. Additional color photos of the suspect and vehicle can be e-mailed. There is a concern that these suspects may be involved in additional robberies in and around the metropolitan area.

