



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Joseph Eberle et al

**TWO WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES AND
A SERGEANT CHARGED WITH CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

Two Washtenaw County Sheriff's deputies and a sergeant were indicted, in two separate indictments, by a federal grand jury in Detroit for violating the civil rights of two Ypsilanti Township men, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The indictments, which were returned on March 12, 2007 and unsealed today, charge Joseph Eberle, age 35, Eric Kelly, age 37, and Shawn Hoy, age 37.

The charges are based on the alleged use of unreasonable force by the officers on June 1, 2006, in Ypsilanti Township after a traffic stop at about 1:30 a.m. The two victims, who were brothers, lived in the neighborhood. Deputy Eberle is charged with intentionally using unreasonable force on Clifton Lee Jr., who died as a result. Deputy Kelly and Sergeant Hoy are charged with intentionally using unreasonable force on Bruce Lee, who was injured. It is also alleged in the indictment that Sgt. Hoy intentionally failed to stop and prevent the use of

unreasonable force by Deputy Kelly.

United States Attorney Murphy said, “The police power is designed to protect the people. Today’s charges arise from a police-citizen encounter in which it is alleged that this power was abused, with tragic consequences. Such alleged abuses run contrary to our civil rights laws, and where the evidence is sufficient, they will be vigorously prosecuted.”

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Mr. Murphy commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their investigation, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department and the Michigan State Police for their cooperation and assistance which led to this indictment.