



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Grand Rapids, Michigan – January 27, 2005** – United States Attorney Margaret M.

Chiara and Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced that, on January 25, 2005, a federal grand jury returned a superseding indictment that contains a criminal charge against Thomas Klein, age 42, of St. Johns, Michigan. The superseding indictment, in Count 3, charges Mr. Klein with misprision of a federal arson offense. The federal arson offense was the destruction of Nelson's Speed Shop in September 2001.

Count 3, the misprision of a federal arson offense, carries a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, a special assessment of \$100, a three-year term of supervised release, and restitution.

"The crime of arson is one of the most difficult types of cases to solve," Ms. Goddard said. "But this was solved the old-fashioned way – through good police instincts and a thorough investigation by ATF agents and investigators of the Michigan State Police."

Ms. Chiara praised the investigative work of Michigan State Police Detective/Sargent Sally Wolter and ATF Special Agent Jack Smith. Assistant United States Attorney Michael A. MacDonald is prosecuting the case for the United States.

The charges in an indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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