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MEDIA RELEASE

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MULTI-AGENCY MEDIA RELEASE

Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI)

Florida Department of Financial Services Division of Insurance Fraud (DIF)

National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB)

Subject: Insurance Fraud Arrest Warrants and a Search Warrant Now Being Served at the Lancaster Physical Therapy Center

July 31, 2008

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI) Vice/Organized Crime Section, the Florida Department of Financial Services Division of Insurance Fraud (DIF), and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) are **presently serving arrest warrants and a search warrant at Lancaster Physical Therapy Center**, a chiropractic services and pain management clinic, located at **677 West Lancaster Road, Orlando, Florida**. The arrests warrants and search warrant are the result of an investigation of the Lancaster Physical Therapy Center for Insurance Fraud and Patient Brokering.

During the early part of 2007, MBI and DIF received information from various sources alleging that some persons at the Lancaster Physical Therapy Center have been engaging in a **criminal enterprise by committing Insurance Fraud and Patient Brokering**.

Beginning in March of 2007, **undercover investigators from MBI and DIF, posing as patients**, were able to obtain evidence of the crimes through visits for treatment sessions at the Lancaster Physical Therapy Center. The evidence reflected that some persons at the therapy center were engaging in **Patient Brokering by paying patients, including the undercover investigators, to attend treatment sessions**.

The investigators also obtained evidence that persons at the clinic were engaging in **Insurance Fraud by submitting fraudulent personal injury insurance claims** to the Geico Auto Insurance Company, which assisted the investigators with the investigation. Geico Insurance Company was only one of numerous insurance companies that had **received fraudulent claims submitted regarding the Lancaster Physical Therapy Center.**

The MBI and DIF investigation developed recorded evidence that implicated one of the owners, and some of the administrative staff, engaging in **conversations with the undercover investigators to include discussing illegal payments and insurance fraud.**

The investigation obtained evidence that payments were made to certain patients of the Lancaster Physical Therapy Center, who had a history of recruiting other patients for the clinic and who would be **willing to stage auto accidents** and obtain payment following treatment at the clinic. The DIF has gathered evidence against those pseudo-patients from the various auto insurance companies that are cooperating with the investigation.

A list of arrests and additional charges will be available later in the day, and **further charges and arrests may be filed within the coming weeks.**

Attorney General Bill McCollum's Office of Statewide Prosecution will be prosecuting the case. If additional information is needed from the **Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation**, contact **Director William Lutz** at **(407) 836-9701**. Information from the **Florida Department of Financial Services** can be obtained from **Major John Corbett** at **(813) 972-8618**.

As a footnote, law enforcement wishes to thank all the insurance companies who cooperated with this investigation, with special thanks for the assistance that GEICO Insurance Company provided in the furtherance of this investigation. George Rogers, Regional Vice President for GEICO in Florida, provided the following statement: "Insurance fraud contributes to higher premium costs for all Florida drivers. In a concerted effort to help lower these costs, GEICO is committed to working hand in hand with local, state and federal law enforcement in the pursuit of identifying, investigating and prosecuting insurance fraud offenders."

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation is a multi-agency Narcotics, Vice and Organized Crime Law Enforcement Task Force assigned to Orange and Osceola Counties. The member agencies of MBI are the State Attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sheriff of Orange County; Orlando Police Department; Winter Park Police Department; Apopka Police Department; University of Central Florida Police Department; Sheriff of Osceola County; Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Florida Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco; United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; United States Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Postal Inspection Service, and the United States Secret Service.