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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 31, 2007
CASE: 07-01087

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PARAMOUNT CONDO FIRE SUSPECT IDENTIFIED

Investigators from the Police and Fire Departments have concluded their investigation of the Paramount Condo Fire and submitted the case to the District Attorney's Office today. The name of a suspect and other details are not being released at this time pending review by the District Attorney's Office. No arrest has been made at this time.

The Escondido Police Department has asked the District Attorney's office to consider charging the suspect with a violation of Penal Code 452 (d)

452 *A person is guilty of unlawfully causing a fire when he recklessly sets fire to or burns or causes to be burned, any structure, forest land or property.*

(d) Unlawfully causing a fire of property is a misdemeanor. For purposes of this paragraph, unlawfully causing a fire of property does not include one burning or causing to be burned his own personal property unless there is injury to another person or to another person's structure, forest land or property.

Police Chief Jim Maher and Fire Chief Vic Reed expressed their appreciation to all who participated in this investigation. Fire Chief Reed noted, "The team work was exceptional among all three agencies; the Police and Fire Departments and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)." Escondido officials will refrain from further comments pending the District Attorney's decision on the case.

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