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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE *MGU*

**THE HAMPDEN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES
USED CELL PHONE DRIVE**

February 6, 2012

The Hampden County District Attorney's Office announces the kickoff of a cell phone fundraising drive. The proceeds from this collection program will benefit local victims of domestic violence and domestic violence shelters throughout our community. Donations will earn up to \$30 per cell phone and up to \$100 per smartphone, regardless of age or condition. This cell phone collection will be active through February 28th, 2012. Some of the money earned will go to purchasing phones to be used by victims of domestic violence who are still at risk, allowing them to contact authorities in an emergency. The rest of the money earned will go to local domestic violence shelters to use for food and other necessities.

"Donating a used, unwanted cell phone allows community members to give to an important cause without reaching into their wallets," stated District Attorney Mark G. Mastroianni. "With the hundreds of used cell phones sitting idly in our community, the fundraising potential is almost limitless."

The Hampden County District Attorney's Office is inviting its own employees to donate old unwanted cell phones and we are inviting the public to donate any old cell phone as well. In addition to public and employee donations, local law enforcement officials have also been invited to donate any abandoned cell phones which had been seized in closed cases.

The Hampden County District Attorney's Office has partnered with Shelter Alliance (www.shelteralliance.net), the largest grassroots cell phone recycler in the United States. Shelter Alliance currently works with over 6000 social service organizations in 50 states and has contributed over \$8,000,000 to participating organizations.

The Hampden County District Attorney's Office invites the public to bring their used, deactivated, unwanted cell phones and battery to these locations during business hours.

District Attorney's Office	Hall of Justice, 50 State Street <u>3rd floor</u> Springfield, MA
Chicopee District Court	30 Church Street Chicopee, MA
Holyoke District Court	20 Court Plaza Holyoke, MA
Westfield District Court	224 Elm Street Westfield, MA
Palmer District Court	34 Sykes Street Palmer, MA
Springfield Juvenile Court	80 State Street Springfield, MA