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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2006

STATE ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES DECISIONS ON DEATH PENALTY

State Attorney Steve Russell received, considered, and agreed with two 20th Circuit State Attorney Death Penalty Review Committee recommendations.

The Committee met and discussed two capital cases on Friday, March 17, 2006. The first was a Collier County case, in which Juan Lopez-Lopez (D.O.B. 12/05/83) was indicted on First Degree Murder and Attempted First Degree Murder charges on March 15, 2006, in connection with the shooting death of Oscar Santiago-Ramirez that occurred on June 17, 2005. The Committee has recommended the State not seek the death penalty in this case.

The second matter considered was a Lee County case, in which Fred Cooper (D.O.B. 07/18/78) was indicted February 1, 2006 on two counts of First Degree Murder and one count of Burglary while Armed in the connection with the murder of a Gateway couple the night of December 26, 2005. The Death Penalty Review Committee has recommended that the State file a notice to seek the death penalty in this case.

The Review Committee considers the known circumstances pertaining to the case and the defendant, in terms of aggravating and mitigating factors relevant to sentencing in capital cases under Florida law.