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DPS Funding Helps in Prosecution of Vulnerable Adult Cases

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced today that the Mississippi Leadership Council on Aging, a division of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) will continue funding for the investigation and prosecution of abuse cases perpetrated against Mississippi's vulnerable adults, many of whom are elderly.

"The safety and security of every Mississippian must be maintained," Musgrove said. "We are working closely with the Department of Public Safety to make sure it happens."

Commissioner of Public Safety David Huggins said certain traffic citations carry an assessment designated for the purpose of funding awareness programs for the elderly to prevent abuse and fraud against these citizens.

According to Wayne Parker, Director of the Council, the DPS has contributed more than \$170,000 to the program since July 2001.

"The Mississippi Leadership Council on Aging primarily funds programs for cities and counties which include promoting awareness and prevention of abuse of the elderly," Parker said. "Due to the serious nature of the crimes and the special vulnerability of the elderly, we have agreed to continue the funding for investigation and prosecution through the Attorney General's office for another six months."

"The Council has done good work in supporting this program for the past twelve months and now, for an additional six months," said Commissioner Huggins. "As we move forward, I hope the Attorney General can find funding to support this program on a permanent basis."

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