October 10, 2001

Members of the Legislative Audit Committee:

The Public Integrity Unit (PIU) at the Travis County District Attorney’s Office obtained an indictment for Cary Elliott on September 14, 2001, after the Special Investigations Unit investigated allegations of theft at the Texas School for the Deaf. The case is pending prosecution by the PIU. The Texas School for the Deaf requested the investigation after discovering several items of property missing from the campus. Cary Elliott was a former groundskeeper employed with the Texas School for the Deaf.

Cary Elliott faces one count of aggregated theft by a public servant. This count of theft includes a public servant enhancement provision because Cary Elliott was alleged to have appropriated the property while in the course of his employment with the Texas School for the Deaf. The maximum penalty for this offense is two to ten years in prison and a $10,000 fine.

The indictment of Cary Elliott alleges that on or about January 13, 2000, he unlawfully appropriated numerous items of furniture belonging to the Texas School for the Deaf without its consent. These thefts occurred at the south campus of the Texas School for the Deaf and involved twenty-two separate furniture items with a total value of over $1,800. Further investigation of this case resulted in the recovery of all twenty-two items.

If you have any questions contact either Ralph Disher, Investigator, or John Weber, Manager, Special Investigations Unit, at (512) 936-9500.

Sincerely,

Lawrence F. Alwin, CPA
State Auditor

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cc: Ms. Claire Bugen, Superintendent, Texas School for the Deaf
    The Honorable Ronnie Earle, Travis County District Attorney