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### **\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

## **State Auditor Otto Releases 2007 Criminal Forfeitures Report**

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**ST. PAUL (12/22/2008)** – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the Criminal Forfeitures Report, which provides information on the amount of cash and property seized subject to forfeiture by Minnesota law enforcement agencies in 2007.

Highlights from the report include:

- In 2007, 217 Minnesota law enforcement agencies (4 more agencies than in 2006) reported a total of 4,931 incidents of property seized subject to forfeiture. This represents an increase of 43 forfeiture incidents, or 0.9 percent more than 2006. Over the last five years, the number of reported forfeiture incidents has risen from 2,635 in 2003 to 4,931 in 2007.
- Gross sales of forfeited property or seized cash totaled \$4,866,485 in 2007, up 24.2 percent from the \$3,918,321 reported in 2006. Administrative expenses and lien holder's obligations grew 9.7 percent between 2006 and 2007, rising from \$499,377 in 2006 to \$547,835 in 2007. Net proceeds totaled \$4,318,651 in 2007, which was 26.3 percent more than the \$3,418,944 reported in 2006.
- Of the 4,931 forfeiture incidents reported, 3,490 involved seized cash or seized property that was sold. Net proceeds involving agencies receiving cash or selling property ranged from negative \$8,646 to \$127,100. Net proceeds per forfeiture incident averaged \$1,237.
- Cash accounted for 51 percent (42 percent in 2006) of property seized, followed by firearms at 26 percent (34 percent in 2006), vehicles at 21 percent (22 percent in 2006), and other property at 2 percent (the same as 2006).

**To view the complete report, which includes an Executive Summary and graphs, go to:**

**[http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/reports/gid/2007/forfeiture/forfeiture\\_07\\_report.pdf](http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/reports/gid/2007/forfeiture/forfeiture_07_report.pdf)**

*The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.*

Rebecca Otto is Minnesota's 18<sup>th</sup> State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at [http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto\\_hires.jpg](http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg). To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>