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PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville— State's Attorney Tom Gibbons announced today that his office has filed an Affidavit in Support of Forfeiture for cash that was seized during a recent traffic stop in Madison County. Carole I. Galvez (d.o.b. 8/16/50) was charged Monday with one count of Money Laundering. Galvez, who is from Gila Bend, Arizona, was pulled over by an Illinois State Police trooper as she was driving southbound on I-55 on January 26, 2013, for traffic violations. During the course of the stop, Galvez's car, a 2004 white Volvo, was searched and the officer discovered \$1,589,860 in cash. The follow-up investigation revealed that the money, which had been stored in vacuum sealed plastic bags, was obtained via criminal activity.

Prosecutors will seek to have the money found in the vehicle forfeited. The law enforcement agencies involved in the investigation and prosecution of the case will be entitled to a percentage of the money. This money can be used for various law enforcement activities. "Our Asset Forfeiture Division does an excellent job in seizing money obtained illegally," stated State's Attorney Gibbons. "It allows us to turn around and use that same money for programs and projects that improve our ability to fight crime without cost to taxpayers." As an example, Gibbons pointed to last November when he announced the implementation of an electronic evidence collection network for police departments across Madison County. Gibbons used funds from the federal drug asset forfeiture program to purchase equipment for several local police departments that will help with an ever-increasing amount of digital media evidence found in criminal investigations.

Galvez is being held at the Madison County Jail in Edwardsville on a \$500,000 bond. She faces 4-15 years in prison if convicted of the Class 1 felony. This charge, as well as the statements made herein, is based upon probable cause. The defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty. Illinois State Police and the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southern Illinois (MEGSI) handled the investigation.

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