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DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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JURY CONVICTS 'COLD CASE' MURDER SUSPECT

The Denver Police Department's Cold Case Unit and the Denver District Attorney's Office were successful in apprehending and recently convicting a murder suspect in a 13-year old murder case.

On Tuesday, July 31, 2007, a Denver jury convicted Donald James Hicks, 4/7/1960, of Murder in the First Degree in the killing of Susan Marie Lundy, 6/23/1961. The incident occurred on March 2, 1994, at 3050 W. 49th Avenue. The case was originally assigned to Detective Marker and Detective Hemphill. Almost immediately the suspect was identified; however, there was insufficient information to obtain an at-large warrant for his arrest. A probable cause warrant was issued.

Over the next several years, many attempts were made to interview Hicks at the various out-of-state locations where he was arrested. Each interview attempt was met with the statement that he did not want to talk. He never once asked for an attorney. Finally in 2006, Detective Martin Vigil flew to the state of Idaho to conduct an interview with Hicks. He was met with the same defiant suspect who refused to talk. After this interview attempt by Detective Vigil, Hicks confessed the crime to a cell mate. Armed with the cell mate's information and new DNA evidence, District Attorney Mitch Morrissey agreed to prosecute Hicks for the murder of Susan Lundy.

The recent three day trial was prosecuted by Chief Deputy DA Mike Pellow and Deputy DA Phil Geigle and went to the jury on July 31, 2007. After only about an hour of deliberations they found Hicks guilty of the crime of murder.

This was truly a case that involved the team effort of many investigators who have since retired from the Denver Police Department as well as active homicide and cold case detectives. Hicks has been an elusive figure for a number of years, yet no one gave up trying to hold this person accountable for the crime he committed.