



DenverDA

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JOINT NEWS RELEASE

June 27, 2008

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MAN CHARGED IN '98 SEXUAL ASSAULT

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey has formally charged a man accused of raping a woman in 1998. The victim, a 34-year-old woman, had gotten off work late one night in February 1998 and was attacked on the way to a bus stop near Colfax Avenue and Kalamath Street.

Melvin Bright (dob: 03-23-70) is charged with two counts of *sexual assault* (F3).

The charges allege that Bright forced the victim into his car and sexually assaulted her in a nearby parking lot. She was later released and was able to call police to report the attack. No suspect was identified in 1998 but the case was reviewed as part of Denver's DNA Cold Case Project and earlier this year Denver police detectives were notified of a match.

Bright is currently in the Denver County Jail where he is serving the remainder of a 545 day jail sentence related to a third-degree assault case. He is scheduled to appear in Denver County Court on July 1, 2008 at 9 a.m. to be formally advised of the new charges.

The Cold Case DNA Project is an ongoing collaborative effort involving Denver Police detectives, the Denver Police Department Crime Lab and the Denver District Attorney's Office with grant funding through the National Institute of Justice.