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NEWS RELEASE

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FAMILIAL DNA MATCH HELPS SOLVE TWO DENVER CRIMES

The Denver DA's Office and the Denver Police Department have successfully combined familial DNA evidence with conventional investigative techniques to solve two criminal cases, resulting in a felony guilty plea recently. This is a first for Denver and may be a first in the country.

Blood left at the scene of a car break-in in February 2009 was used to develop a DNA profile that was submitted to Denver's local DNA database. As part of a research project, the sample was run through a familial search software program specially designed by the Denver DA's Office and the Denver Police Crime Lab. A close match to another DNA profile already in the database was located, which indicated the blood may have been left behind by a close family member, most likely a sibling.

Additional investigative work was then done by the DA's Office and the Denver Police Department including witness interviews and public records searches to determine which male relative of the person in the database may have committed the car break-in. Once a suspect was identified, a court order for a DNA sample was issued and his DNA was found to be a perfect match to the original car break-in.

The suspect, Luis Jaimes-Tinajera (dob: 02-09-88) was also linked to a second car break-in through DNA. He pleaded guilty on September 10, 2009 to one count of criminal trespass, naming both victims. He faces up to 3 years in prison when he sentenced on October 15, 2009.

The use of familial DNA match searching is a new tool in identifying and prosecuting criminals who might otherwise not be caught. It can provide an important lead that, with further investigative work, solves a case. It has been used successfully in Great Britain for some time but this is one of the first, if not the first, successful cases in the United States.