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NEWS RELEASE

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NEW CHARGES FOR INFAMOUS BURGLAR

An unsolved burglary from last summer now has a suspect, thanks to Denver's DNA Burglary Project.

Peter Lewis (DOB: 01-23-85) is charged with *second-degree burglary* (F3) and *theft* (F4) in connection with the June 2005 burglary of a home on East Mississippi Avenue.

Lewis is currently serving 6 years in the Department of Corrections for the November 2005 burglary of Denver Police Chief Gerry Whitman's home. His DNA was entered into the CODIS databank after he pleaded guilty to those charges.

DNA evidence was collected at the June burglary scene and was recently found to match Lewis' DNA profile.

The Denver DNA Burglary Project is a grant-funded project launched last year that uses DNA analysis as an investigative tool in property crimes to identify suspects and link their crimes. Patrol officers collect DNA evidence at burglary scenes, then the Denver Police Department Crime laboratory develops the DNA profiles for entry into the CODIS databank. The DNA Burglary Project is important because of the recidivism rate of burglars and their tendency to escalate to more violent crimes.

The DNA Burglary Project is supported by a grant from the National Institute of Justice.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. *See* Colo. RPC 3.6