



DenverDA

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DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

September 26, 2007

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DENVER AWARDED \$1.5 MILLION TO CONTINUE DNA COLD CASE PROJECT

The National Institute of Justice has announced that the Denver Police Department and the Denver District Attorney's Office have been awarded a \$1.5 million dollar grant to expand and continue their successful DNA Integrated Cold Case Project which has been ongoing for several years.

The DNA Cold Case Project uses advances in DNA technology to help create new leads in previously unsolved homicides and sexual assault cases. This new grant funding will allow the project to continue for another 18 months and expands the interdisciplinary team to include additional staff, including an enhanced victim services component that will provide support to victims of re-opened cases.

The grant demonstrates the continued support of the National Institute of Justice for Denver's outstanding work. Denver was the only site selected for the next level of cold case investigations which integrates all aspects of a cold case including the work of detectives, crime lab analysts, prosecutors and victim advocates. "We're pleased to have received this grant. It will assist the department in our continuing efforts to identify and assist in the prosecution of criminals no matter how long it may take," said Denver Police Chief Gerry Whitman.

"This is great news for Denver and for our victims and their families, acknowledged Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey. Our cold case work will also help prevent future crimes, making our city safer."

The Denver DA's Office applied for the funding earlier this year in partnership with the Denver Police Department to enhance the DNA Integrated Cold Case Project and create a model program that can be replicated across the country.