



DenverDA

Mitchell R. Morrissey, District Attorney - Second Judicial District
201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 801, Denver, CO 80202

Bus. Phone: 720-913-9000
Fax: 720-913-9035

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Lynn Kimbrough, 720-913-9025

MAN CHARGED IN 04' COLD CASE HOMICIDE

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey has formally charged a 42-year-old transient man accused of kidnapping and killing a woman in August 2004. The charges are the result of work by Denver's Cold Case Project.

Billy Jene Wilson (dob: 07-21-69) is charged with *first-degree murder after deliberation* (F1), two counts of *felony murder* (F1), and *second-degree kidnapping* (F2).

The charges allege that in the early morning hours of August 21, 2004, Wilson attacked 27-year-old Gina Gruenwald in the 1700 block of Lafayette Street. Gruenwald had been out with friends at a nightclub and was last seen when they dropped her off in the 1300 block of Humboldt Street. Her body was found later that morning; she had been stabbed in the neck. No suspect was identified at the time.

Wilson was arrested in San Francisco earlier this year on an unrelated case. A DNA sample was obtained during the booking process, and his DNA was entered into the national DNA database, CODIS. "The arrest and filing of charges against Mr. Wilson shows the continued commitment we have to work on these cold cases together with the Denver Police Department to get answers for these families," said Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey.

Wilson is currently in custody in San Francisco where he has waived extradition. A Denver court date will be set once he is returned to Denver sometime in the next few weeks.

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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.

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