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NEWS RELEASE

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WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY IN 2000 COLD CASE MURDER

A woman accused of facilitating and watching the murder of a disabled woman in June 2000 has pleaded guilty today to second-degree murder and a crime of violence count. This woman, Marie Marone, has also admitted to accepting the proceeds of money orders stolen from the victim and disposing of evidence (including bloody clothing) after the murder. Marone intentionally misled investigators in 2000 during the original investigation, suggesting that a different individual was involved in the murder.

Marie Lynn Marone (dob: 10-29-72) was charged along with **John Vazquez** (dob: 05-27-82) in the murder of 36-year-old Renee Ealy. Ealy was found in her apartment in the 1100 block of South Cherry Street in June 2000; she had been stabbed to death.

Marone was originally charged with first-degree murder. In exchange for her guilty plea to second-degree murder today, the first-degree murder count was dismissed.

Vazquez was convicted of first-degree murder after deliberation (F1) and first-degree murder-felony murder (F1) in Ealy's death last year and he is now serving life in prison without parole.

The charges were the result of work by Denver Cold Case Detectives Joel Humphrey and Philip Stanford; the case was prosecuted by Chief Deputy DA Dawn Weber and Deputy District Attorney Zach McCabe.

Marone is scheduled to be sentenced on June 28, 2013 in Denver District Court; she will face up to 40 years in prison.

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 and assistance from Colorado Senator Mark Udall and Colorado Senator Michael Bennet.