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NEWS RELEASE

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FINAL DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN '94 COLD CASE MURDERS

The last of three men to be sentenced in a brutal home-invasion robbery and double murder in 1994 has been sentenced to 36 years in prison today.

Jackie McConnell (dob: 09-05-74) pleaded guilty earlier this year to second-degree murder in connection with the 1994 murders of a man and woman, and the wounding of a third victim.

On June 12, 1994, the Denver Police Department responded to 3234 Larimer Street and found three people who had been attacked and tortured, and one had also been repeatedly sexually assaulted. Two of the victims died, Jacqueline Gallegos and Nelson Swiggett. The lone survivor told police that several intruders had come into his home at about 3 a.m. demanding money and drugs, and then attacked them. The case was unsolved until Denver's Cold Case partners linked DNA evidence that resulted in a Grand Jury indictment in 2012.

Samuel Sims (dob: 03-30-71) was found guilty last month of multiple counts of first-degree murder, one count of attempted first-degree murder and one count of sexual assault. He was sentenced to 2 consecutive life terms plus 72 years in prison.

Co-defendant **Andre Jackson** (dob: 02-10-70) went to trial earlier. He was found guilty of first degree murder, attempt first-degree murder and sexual assault and was also given the maximum of two consecutive life terms plus 72 years in prison.

The case was prosecuted by Chief Deputy DA Khoury Dillon and Deputy DA Zach McCabe.

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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.