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NEWS RELEASE

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TWO LIFE SENTENCES IN '94 COLD CASE MURDERS

The second of three men to be sentenced in a brutal home-invasion robbery and double murder in 1994 has been given the maximum of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

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

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.

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 given the maximum of two consecutive life terms plus 72 years in prison.

At Jackson's sentencing and today at the sentencing hearing for Sims, family members told the judge how the murder of Ms. Gallegos had impacted her family; her oldest child, a son, was only 6 at the time she was murdered. Both he and a sister said there were no words to adequately share what it was like to grow up without their mother.

Jackie McConnell (dob: 09-05-74) pleaded guilty earlier this year to second-degree murder and will be sentenced next week in Denver District Courtroom 5H.

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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.