

District Court, City and County of Denver, Colorado Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse, Room 135 520 W. Colfax Ave. Denver, CO 80204	FILED IN DENVER DISTRICT COURT  JAN 27 2023  DENVER, COLORADO COUNTER CLERK _____ COPY  ▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
Plaintiff: The People of the State of Colorado  Defendant: <b>RICKY DAWSON</b> 01/24/1961 Black Male, 6'2 Height, 250 Weight, Brown Eyes, Black Hair, [REDACTED]	Case Number: <b>23CR20003</b> Div: Criminal Ctrm: <b>SA/SD</b>
<b>SUPPORTING AFFIDAVIT FOR AT LARGE ARREST WARRANT</b>	

Your affiant, Detective John McGrail, #06043, a Police Officer with the Denver Police Department, was assigned to investigate allegations of: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, in violation of 18-3-102(1)(a); MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, in violation of 18-3-102(1)(b); by **RICKY DAWSON** against **Terri Turachak**, on DPD Case Number 1996770229.

**On October 5, 1996, at approximately 12:47 p.m.**, the Denver Police and medical personnel were dispatched to the upstairs apartment at 1927 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, on a person who was possibly dead. Upon arrival, the officers found a female victim, later identified as **Terri Turachak** **dob: 05-14-1961**, laying on the bedroom floor face down. The victim had no pulse and was pronounced deceased by medical personnel at approximately 1:05 p.m.

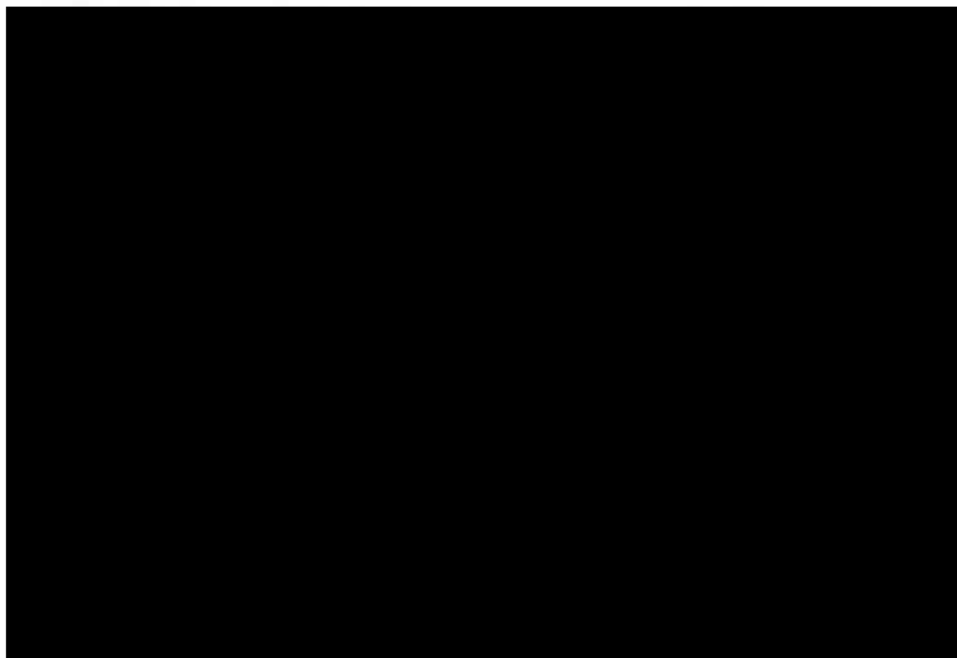
Homicide Detective Joe Tennant, 84051, and Detective Joe DeMott, 76023, responded to the crime scene. Homicide supervisor, Sergeant G. Reed, 68064, responded to the scene as well. Crime Lab Detectives T. Widmayer, 75022, and M. Matthews, 90029, arrived and assisted with documentation of the crime scene by using still and video photography.

The on-scene investigation revealed that there was a disturbance in the victim's apartment on this date, between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. No one was observed leaving the victim's apartment after the disturbance. There were no signs of forced entry into the victim's apartment.

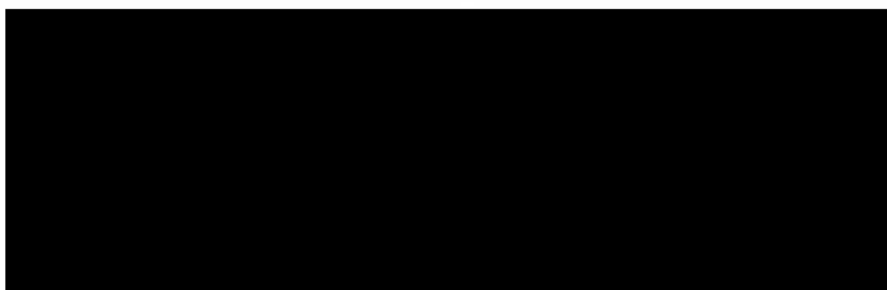
The Pathologist, Doctor T. Henry, and the Medical Examiner, Del Boyer, with the Denver Coroner's Office, responded to the scene and examined the victim's body. Doctor Henry's initial opinion was that the victim died of possible strangulation. Blunt force trauma was

also observed around the victim's head and face area. The victim was transported to the Denver Coroner's Office for an autopsy at a later time.

Doctor Henry performed an autopsy on the victim and recovered suspected hairs from the victim's right thigh just below her groin.



Doctor Henry determined that Ms. Turachak had died of strangulation and blunt force trauma to the head and noted the following:



Detectives interviewed numerous witnesses including the [REDACTED] who related [REDACTED]. He related they were not living together and on the night of the murder he was staying at his mother's home which was confirmed by his mother. [REDACTED] related on September 30, 1996, he was visiting Terri at her apartment when 3 unknown black males robbed and assaulted them (Denver PD Case# 1996-769746). [REDACTED] and the victim, Terri, positively identified the male suspects involved in the robbery and assault as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] and Terri made the report with Denver Police on October 2, 1996. The on-scene investigation revealed blood on the walls of the living room inside the apartment and were later identified to belong to [REDACTED]. Investigators determined the blood on the walls were consistent with the

robbery and assault of the victim and [REDACTED] on September 30, 1996.

Detectives interviewed witness, [REDACTED], who related that he overheard a loud commotion coming from the victim's apartment around 12:30 am and when he returned from picking up his girlfriend, [REDACTED], around 3:30 am they noticed the victim's apartment door was slightly open.

Detectives interviewed [REDACTED] [REDACTED], who related the victim came to her apartment around 1 am or 1:30 am and she observed the victim with a black male and she appeared to be injured. The victim asked for money and then offered to sell [REDACTED] drugs, but [REDACTED] refused and told the victim to leave. Several photos were shown to [REDACTED] and she identified a [REDACTED] as a male that frequented the victim's apartment.

Detectives interviewed a [REDACTED] who related she saw the victim Friday night, October 5, 1996, at about 11:30 pm with a "bugged eyed, black male with an afro."

Detectives interviewed a [REDACTED] who related he was [REDACTED]. He related the Friday before the murder, the victim called him asking for money for cigarettes. [REDACTED] described an incident in May or June of 1996 where Terri owed \$20 to four black males and she called him begging to pay the males. [REDACTED] related he paid the men the \$20. [REDACTED] related he last had sex with the victim in August of 1996 and she [REDACTED]

Detectives learned through their investigation that a party named [REDACTED] was possibly involved in the assault against the victim and [REDACTED] several days prior to the murder.

On November 16, 1996, Detectives conducted an interview with [REDACTED] who denied any involvement in the assault. [REDACTED] voluntarily submitted his blood, saliva and hair samples for comparison. It was later determined through DNA analysis that [REDACTED] DNA did not match the DNA recovered from the scene. [REDACTED] was killed in auto accident in 2005.

On August 08, 2004, the Denver Police Crime Lab received a CODIS DNA Offender match that was recovered from the victim's vaginal and anal swabs. The recovered DNA matched known offender, **Ricky DAWSON (01/24/61)**. Investigation disclosed that DAWSON was in custody in Panama City, Florida for a sex assault/murder PCPD Case# 2001-22615 and eventually pled guilty to 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison.

On October 04, 2004, Detective Dixie GRIMES was assigned the case for follow up investigation due to the new lead with the match to the recovered DNA. Detective GRIMES learned the following during her investigation:

The Seattle Police Department had a CODIS DNA Offender match to **Ricky DAWSON** for a sex assault/ murder on 05/28/00, case# 2000-240670. Detective GRIMES contacted the King County Medical Examiner's Office and found the autopsy report showed multiple blunt force injuries involving the head, neck and extremities. The cause of death was determined to be manual strangulation. The medical examiner collected oral, anal and vaginal swabs which were submitted to their state crime lab. The unidentified male DNA profile from the Seattle case matched to the DNA profile in the Florida case which was that of Ricky Dawson.

Detective GRIMES conducted a criminal history check through the Denver Police Records Management System for Ricky DAWSON dob: 01-24-1961 and found he had been arrested in Denver on 08/03/96 at 14<sup>th</sup> and Corona St and arrested on 09/26/96 at E Colfax Ave and High St.

**On December 03, 2004**, Detective GRIMES and Detective DELMONICO of the Denver Police Cold Case Unit responded to Panama City, Florida and conducted an interview with Ricky DAWSON. DAWSON related [REDACTED]

**On February 4, 2005**, Forensic Scientist Gregory LeBerge of the Denver Police Crime Lab submitted a report detailing his DNA analysis of the victim's Post-Mortem samples (known blood sample, vaginal swabs and rectal swabs) and the known saliva sample from Ricky DAWSON. LeBerge's analysis identified a major source DNA profile from the victim's rectal and vaginal swab sperm fraction that matched the suspect Ricky DAWSON.

**On October 11, 2005**, Detectives responded to Dayton, Ohio and interviewed [REDACTED] who was known to frequent the victim's apartment at the time of the homicide. He related he knew the victim and remembered doing drugs with her the night of the murder. [REDACTED] related there was another black male about 6'2 with a mustache in the apartment that was doing drugs with them. [REDACTED] related he walked into Terri's room and observed Terri giving the other black male oral sex, so he left and went to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] apartment. He related he heard a commotion coming from Terri's apartment around midnight or 1:00 a.m. but did not think much of it.

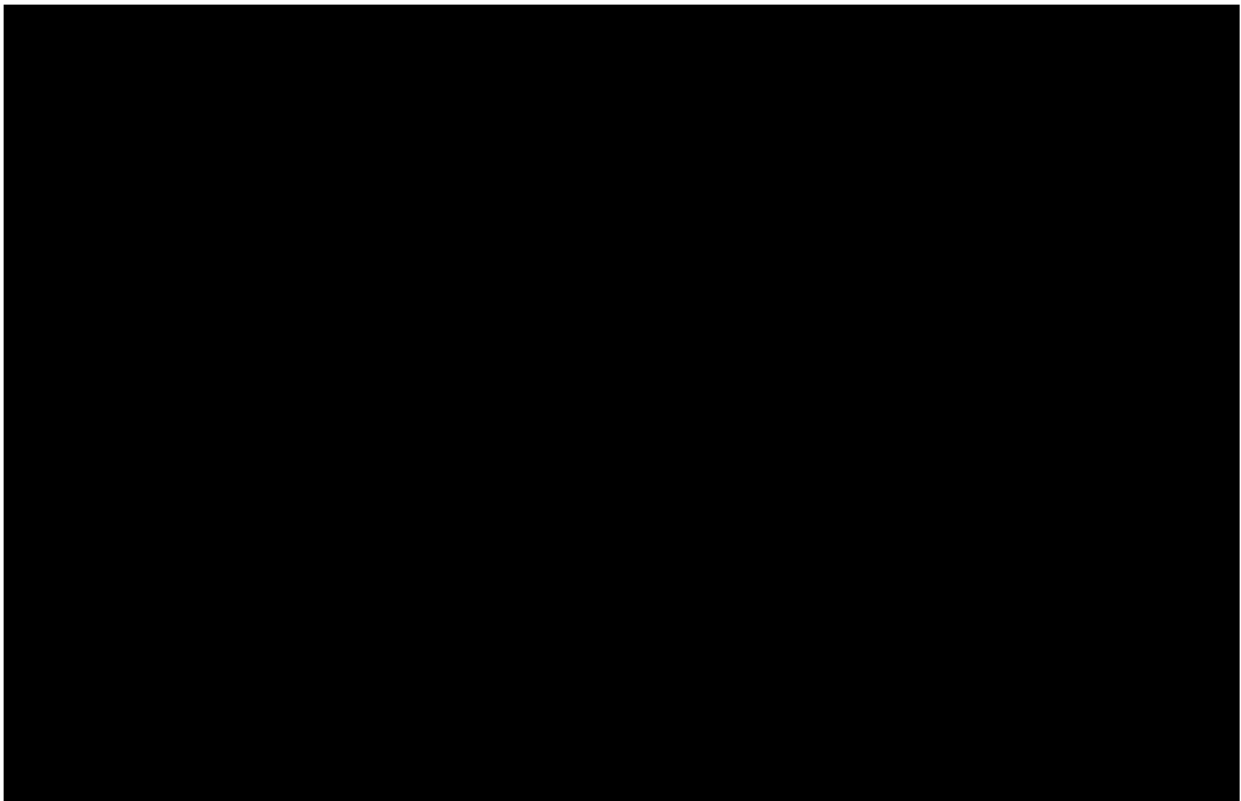
**On December 14, 2005,** Detectives interviewed [REDACTED] who was identified by the victim and [REDACTED] as one of the suspects involved in the aggravated robbery at the victim's apartment on September 30, 1996. He related he knew the victim and often smoked "crack-cocaine" with her at her apartment. He related he did not believe he was in the state at the time of the murder. He denied any involvement in the assault at the apartment before the murder.

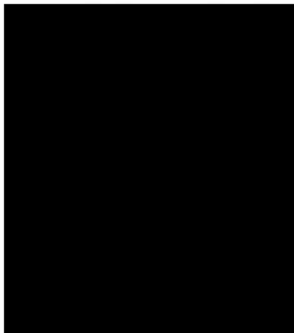
**On March 2, 2006,** Detective GRIMES received a report from the Denver Police Crime Lab stating the analysis of the pubic hair recovered from the victim's post-mortem exam "disclosed the presence of a negroid pubic hair. This hair was not consistent with the pubic hair controls from the victim.

Detective GRIMES executed a Rule 41.1 and collected a buccal swab from DAWSON for comparison to the DNA profile at the Denver Police Crime Lab. Detective GRIMES learned the buccal swab matched the major DNA profile from the DNA recovered from the victim as Ricky DAWSON's DNA.

**On December 12, 2018,** Detective John McGrail, 06043, of the Denver Police Cold Case/ Homicide Unit was assigned this case for follow up investigation. Detective MCGRAIL reviewed the case file and submitted additional laboratory analysis request regarding evidence recovered from the scene and the victim's postmortem examination.

**On August 29, 2019,** Your Affiant, Detective John MCGRAIL, of the Denver Police Department Homicide Unit received a Denver Police Crime Lab Report which related the following:





Ricky Dawson, DOB: 01/24/1961, Black Male, 6'2 Height, 250 Weight, Brown Eyes, Black Hair, [Redacted], Last known address: Suwannee Correctional Institution 5964 US-90, Live Oak, Florida 32060

Based on the foregoing, your affiant respectfully requests that an At Large Warrant be issued for the arrest of RICKY DAWSON, DOB: 01/24/1961 for: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, in violation of 18-3-102(1)(a) MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, in violation of 18-3-102(1)(b)

I affirm this information to be true and correct

[Signature]  
Signature of Affiant

Subscribed under oath before me on

1:15 pm      01/27/23  
Date                              Time

[Signature]      [Signature]  
Judge or Notary Public      Hon. Kandace C. Gerdes

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

### ARREST WARRANT

To all Sheriffs, Peace Officers, and Police Officers with the said State:

You are hereby commanded to take the person of the defendant and bring him without unnecessary delay before a Judge of the County Court to be dealt with according to law.

Bail fixed at \$ no bond  
  
Date 1-27-2023

[Signature]  
Signature of Judge  
Kandace C. Gerdes  
Printed name of Judge

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I executed the above warrant on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ by taking

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name of person arrested) into custody and placing said person in the \_\_\_\_\_ Jail for safekeeping  
until further order of the court.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Arresting Officer