



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

TESTIMONY OF THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**H.B. No. 6824: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR
AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE.**

JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
March 5, 2015

The Division of Criminal Justice wishes to thank the Joint Committee on Appropriations for this opportunity to submit additional information concerning the Governor's Recommended Budget for the Biennium ending June 30, 2017. We also extend our appreciation to the Governor and to the Office of Policy and Management for their thorough review of the Division's budget submission. We look forward to working with the Committee as you proceed with your examination of the Division's funding needs to assure our continued ability to properly fulfill our constitutionally mandated mission.

The Division of Criminal Justice is fully cognizant of the continued financial difficulties facing our state and its people. In response to these ongoing fiscal pressures, we have continued to aggressively manage our operations to achieve the greatest return on the minimum investment. We have once again this year preserved our record of never having requested a deficiency appropriation, which is a substantial achievement since our operating expenses (OE) again exceeded appropriations due to factors beyond our control. For example, the grants that covered certain ongoing Information Technology (IT) costs in previous years have expired, yet our request for funding for these ongoing costs was denied. This has forced the Division to transfer funds from personal services (PS), which in turn has resulted in vacancies going unfilled for longer than anticipated or indefinitely.

The Division must respectfully request the Committee's attention to the critical need to restore all positions recommended for elimination in the Governor's budget, including the restoration of the Cold Case/Shooting Task Force line item specifically created by the Appropriations Committee three years ago but now recommended for total elimination. Further, we would request the addition of another eight positions over and above existing levels to allow for the implementation of a pilot program that we believe will reduce criminal prosecutions by providing more appropriate disposition of cases involving chronic low-level offenders.

Our current position count as approved in the 2014 Mid-Term Budget Adjustments stands at 498. The Governor's recommended budget proposes to cut that number by a total of 30 positions

– 16 positions now classified as unfilled vacancies and another 14 positions to be eliminated through “programmatic” elimination of the Cold Case/Shooting Task Force line items specifically added to the budget by the Appropriations Committee. Our analysis shows that the reductions to the Division personnel count are overwhelmingly disproportional in terms of the Governor’s overall budget plan. Specifically, the Division of Criminal Justice accounts for approximately 23 percent of the total of 134 positions we have identified to be eliminated in the budget as a whole. Put another way, the Division with 498 currently authorized positions accounts for a mere 1.2 percent of the more than 41,000 total General Fund positions, yet our small agency is targeted for nearly one-quarter of the number proposed to be eliminated. No reason or justification at all is given for the recommended “programmatic” elimination of the Cold Case/Shooting Task Force line item and the eradication of this highly successful initiative and its entire staff.

In fiscal 2009 the Division had 532 authorized positions. The continued erosion has resulted in a greater reliance on temporary “per diem” employees to handle the workload for which we are unable to hire permanent employees. While some of these per diem employees are filling in for employees who are out on leave, fully half the number are assigned to handle caseloads, including all of the per diem attorneys assigned to the units responsible for appeals and *habeas corpus* matters. The Appropriations Committee took note of this last year when 10 positions were provided to transition work from per diem to permanent employees. Although some progress was made, a number of positions remain vacant due to the time required to complete the hiring process, the impact of the Governor’s most recent hiring freeze and our subsequent decision to put a hold on all hiring upon learning of the reductions proposed in the Governor’s budget. We would respectfully request the restoration of all 16 positions deemed vacant and recommended for elimination.

The Division further requests the restoration of all 14 “programmatic” reductions targeted through the elimination of the Cold Case/Shooting Task Force line item. Three years ago, recognizing both the heartbreak that families of homicide victims suffer and the need to assist our cities in providing safety to their residents, the Appropriations Committee specifically funded the Cold Case/Shooting Task Force Bureau. The bureau has been nothing short of an astounding success, helping our major cities drastically reduce violent crime while, at the same time, solving dozens of “cold” homicide cases and bringing some measure of relief to victims’ survivors.

At a time when public figures of all stripes laud the reduction of violent crime and reiterate government’s responsibility to vindicate victims’ rights, it is astonishing that the single-largest executive branch personnel cut eliminates the entity that has been at the heart of those efforts. The Cold Case/Shooting Task Force Bureau uses a two-pronged, collaborative approach to the investigation of unsolved homicides (Cold Case) and to address urban violence (Shooting Task Force). That collaboration, along with the active involvement of a prosecutor, is central to the bureau’s success.

The shooting task force consists of state and municipal police officers, federal agents, and DCJ inspectors and prosecutors. Their investigative approach is built from the understanding that urban gun violence often is driven by a vicious cycle of retaliatory shootings. Shootings –

whether fatal or not – often generate responsive shootings against a rival gang or crew. The shooting task force aggressively investigates non-fatal shootings and works closely with a prosecutor to ensure that those cases receive proper attention after arrest in an effort to break that cycle. In the first year that the shooting task force operated, the City of Hartford experienced 51 fewer gunshot victims and 11 fewer homicides than in the previous year. The task force made 214 felony arrests and executed 50 search and seizure warrants; it seized 76 firearms, mostly taken from the hands of persons with previous criminal convictions. In 2012, at the request of Chief Dean Esserman, DCJ expanded its efforts by devoting three shooting task force inspectors to the City of New Haven.

The results in both Hartford and New Haven continue to be impressive. Even after the shooting task force's initial impact in Hartford in 2011, violence continues to decline, with the FBI's Uniform Crime Report showing an 11 percent decline in Hartford's violent crime rate in 2013. Similarly, New Haven's violent crime rate declined 12.1 percent during that same period.

The Division's cold case units operate on a similar model in which municipal police departments supply officers to work with DCJ prosecutors and inspectors on unsolved homicides. An experienced prosecutor leads a team of seasoned DCJ homicide inspectors who re-examine the entire case, employing the latest forensic techniques. In its brief history, the bureau has worked mostly in the Hartford area and in southeastern Connecticut, where it has investigated – and solved – dozens of previously-unsolved murders.

In southeastern Connecticut, the bureau works with the Connecticut State Police and several New London-area municipal police departments. In just three years the southeastern team has made arrests in seven cases. Four persons have been convicted of murder or manslaughter while seven others currently await trial in connection with those murders. The bureau now is pursuing promising leads in several other cases. With the active participation of Hartford Police Department detectives and officers from other Hartford-area towns, the bureau also has made arrests in approximately 30 previously-unsolved homicides, resulting in 33 convictions directly related to a murder and five convictions for perjury. Thirty-two cases currently are pending in state court. The bureau is currently investigating nineteen other murders.

The bureau also is working jointly with the United States Attorney's Office and the FBI to investigate murders committed by violent gangs. Just two weeks ago, a federal grand jury returned indictments against two men for the murders of two Hartford citizens. A cold case bureau prosecutor will participate in the federal trial of that case.

The bureau's biggest undertaking yet was a large organized crime investigation that began in 2012. Although this is just one case, it has led to 29 arrests and six convictions directly related to four homicides, six shooting incidents with multiple victims, and two firearms cases. The remaining cases still are pending. This investigation also involved a collaborative effort with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to target the drug trafficking side of this group. That has thus far resulted in 53 arrests for drug trafficking - 21 on state charges and 32 on federal charges.

When the Appropriations Committee funded the Cold Case/Shooting Task Force Bureau, it did so with the specific intention of bringing some degree of comfort to the families of unsolved homicide victims and to help reduce violence in our cities and improve the lives of those citizens. It has been nothing short of a resounding success. In fact, members of the Committee may recall that before the Committee funded the Cold Case Bureau, the mother of Kathy Hardy, the victim of a then-unsolved homicide, had decried the state's failure to provide resources to pursue these cases. That case became the bureau's first order of business. After a joint investigation between the bureau and the United States Attorney's Office, a federal grand jury charged two persons with Kathy Hardy's murder. That case currently awaits trial in federal court, where two members of the Chief State's Attorney's Office will prosecute the case with a federal prosecutor.

This success has been noted by other jurisdictions. Our cold case unit has received inquiries from as far away as the Netherlands concerning cold case playing cards that are sold to inmates in Connecticut's correctional facilities. Based on a concept we adapted from another state, these cards feature an unsolved homicide or missing persons case and offer inmates a means to provide information about these cases. So far arrests or convictions have occurred in at least nine of the cases featured on the playing cards. The program operates at no cost to the taxpayers as the cost of printing the cards is covered by the proceeds of sales to inmates.

Yet we have only begun to make inroads. Hundreds of homicides remain unsolved and could benefit from the work of cold case investigators. With regard to the Shooting Task Force, some might argue that declining crime rates make it no longer necessary. We would respectfully contend that the Shooting Task Force is an integral reason contributing to the decline in crime and that to eliminate this successful initiative simply makes no sense.

In recent years, the criminal justice system and this General Assembly have made major strides to reduce incarceration and recidivism. This year the Division welcomes the "Second Chance" initiative advanced by the Governor. However, we must caution that if this initiative is to work, it must give prosecutors – the Division of Criminal Justice – the ability to make it work. The prosecutor serves as a key gatekeeper in determining whether arrests will be made at all in many cases and in facilitating the disposition of cases that do go to court.

Like other initiatives to promote alternatives to incarceration, the "Second Chance" approach require more time and attention on the part of the prosecutor. Cases will have to be continued more often and for longer periods and then monitored by the prosecutor for compliance with restitution orders, treatment requirements and the like. While the overall number of arrests and resulting number of cases added to court dockets might be down, the number of open cases pending on those dockets is not. It becomes a question not of quantity, but of quality and whether the criminal justice system is placing the emphasis that public safety and the rights of individual defendants demand. Yet with its recommended cuts, the Governor's budget would appear to acknowledge no role for the Division in helping to assure the success of the "Second Chance" initiative.

In assessing the quality of the criminal justice system, one must go beyond the temptation to examine numbers of arrests, caseloads and the final disposition of any particular case. As alluded

to earlier, the work of the prosecutor goes far beyond what happens in the courtroom. Unlike the public defender or private defense bar, the prosecutor plays an extensive and often determinative role before many cases ever get to court and in deciding whether they in fact ever will. No arrest can be made by warrant unless the warrant application has been reviewed and approved by the prosecutor. This in and of itself is no small feat. A spot check found that prosecutors in the Waterbury Judicial District alone reviewed nearly 200 applications for the various types of warrants in a recent period of just five days. Prosecutors need more time, not less, to carefully scrutinize warrant applications to weed out those cases where an arrest should not even be made. More careful review also often results in additional investigation being required by the police, which again helps to weed out some cases and to build stronger cases where an arrest should be made. This applies to all warrants; whether it is a search and seizure warrant, arrest warrant or violation of probation warrant, the first gatekeeper is the prosecutor who must approve any application before it can be presented to a judge.

The added duties and responsibilities placed on the prosecutor also extend beyond those of the private and public defense bar once a case gets to court. The prosecutor has not only an obligation, but legal responsibilities to seek out and rightfully consider the input of victims of crime. Prosecutors and Division Inspectors also must prepare witnesses prior to trial and provide protection for witnesses at risk of harm (our state's witness protection program is located in the Office of the Chief State's Attorney). Once a case is placed on the trial list, the prosecutor must begin to prepare to bring that case to trial. This takes a great deal of time and work which may not exist at all for the defense attorney who knows from the outset that a particular case will never go to trial. We would call to the Committee's attention the growing number of cases on the trial list in many of the Judicial Districts, which offers a more insightful statistic than mere numbers of cases added on the front end of the system.

The growing trial list is not the only area where the demands of prosecuting cases that get to court have grown tremendously in recent years. The legal requirement for the recording of custodial interrogations in major felony investigations has resulted in prosecutors being required to review hours and hours of interrogations in cases that previously were summarized in a few written pages. More recent, the trend toward equipping police cruisers with "dash cameras" and individual officers with "body" cameras is producing even more recorded information that must be reviewed by the prosecutor. This cannot be a cursory review. Each recording must be examined in detail to assure that any evidence to support an arrest or conviction is obtained and equally important to determine if any exculpatory material is present that might point to the subject's innocence or even lead to a decision not to make an arrest. Every recording from every officer must be reviewed, which can mean multiple recordings from any one incident. In one recent case, a seasoned prosecutor "who knows what to look for" spent eight hours – the equivalent of a full workday – reviewing "body cam" recordings from one incident.

With each new development in investigative procedure or in the law through either legislation or court interpretation, the demands on the Division increase along with the workload. Yet we are hard-pressed to keep up with those developments since to do so requires training and training requires time – time that must be spent in the courtroom, warrant reviews or other responsibilities that cannot be put off. Training is not only essential to properly doing the job we are now called upon to do but also to help assure that we are prepared to step up to the new

responsibilities that will result from the “Second Chance” and other initiatives to reduce crime, incarceration and recidivism. The Division would note that our current appropriation for training is miniscule when compared to our counterparts in the Division of Public Defender Services. This has required us, with few exceptions, to essentially end out-of-state training, which most often includes specialized training areas such as computer crime or white-collar fraud.

In preparing our budget requests, the Division examined our critical needs in areas including training and the reduction of recidivism. In this latter area, we developed a proposal for a pilot program to screen chronic offenders who commit low-level offenses (panhandling, breach of peace and the like) and seek to provide treatment or other social services before their latest criminal case is adjudicated in court. We ask your consideration of eight additional positions to implement the pilot program. The Center for Court Innovation, while not offering any funding for the program itself, has offered to undertake a formal study to evaluate the effectiveness of a pilot program.

In conclusion, the Division of Criminal Justice again wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Committee for your past support and assistance. In summary, we would respectfully request the (1) restoration of the Cold Case/Shooting Task Force line item and its 14 associated programmatic positions; (2) restoration of the 16 positions designated in the Governor’s Recommended Budget as vacant; and (3) the addition of eight positions for a pilot program to reduce incarceration of and recidivism by chronic, low-level offenders. We thank the Committee for this opportunity to provide our input on the appropriations act and would be happy to provide any additional information you might require or to answer any questions you might have.

SOLVED CASES

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UNSOLVED HOMICIDE



Shawn Dudley
19 Year Old Male

On September 24, 2006, Shawn Dudley was shot and killed at the West Indian Market on Main Street in Hartford.

SOLVED

Have Any Info Regarding This Case?
Connecticut Cold Case
Investigation
1-866-623-8058

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UNSOLVED HOMICIDE



Kelsey Monahan
28 Year Old Female

On May 25, 2001, Kelsey Monahan was discovered unconscious in a car in Milford. She was later found with a \$50,000 reward.

SOLVED

Have Any Info Regarding This Case?
Connecticut Cold Case
Investigation
1-866-623-8058

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UNSOLVED HOMICIDE



Alexandra Ducasay
26 Year Old Female

On May 19, 2006, Alexandra Ducasay was stabbed to death in her home alone at her residence in Milford.

SOLVED

Have Any Info Regarding This Case?
Connecticut Cold Case
Investigation
1-866-623-8058

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UNSOLVED HOMICIDE



Kathy Hardy
39 Year Old Female

On March 7, 2006, Kathy Hardy was the victim of an armed robbery and was located in a store in Hartford. A \$50,000 reward is being offered.

SOLVED

Have Any Info Regarding This Case?
Connecticut Cold Case
Investigation
1-866-623-8058

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UNSOLVED HOMICIDE



Tynell "Blue" Hardwick
29 Year Old Male

On October 14, 2006, Tynell Hardwick was shot and killed on Boswell Avenue in Hartford. A \$25,000 reward is being offered.

SOLVED

Have Any Info Regarding This Case?
Connecticut Cold Case
Investigation
1-866-623-8058

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UNSOLVED HOMICIDE



Luis "Berto" Benitez
28 Year Old Male

On December 7, 2006, Luis Benitez was shot and killed in a store in Hartford. A \$50,000 reward is being offered.

SOLVED

Have Any Info Regarding This Case?
Connecticut Cold Case
Investigation
1-866-623-8058

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UNSOLVED HOMICIDE



Delano Gray
22 Year Old Male

On June 18, 2007, Delano Gray was shot and killed in a store in Hartford. A \$50,000 reward is being offered.

SOLVED

Have Any Info Regarding This Case?
Connecticut Cold Case
Investigation
1-866-623-8058

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J
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UNSOLVED HOMICIDE



Jephther "Jep" White
24 Year Old Male

On August 28, 2007, Jephther White was shot and killed in a store on Wethersfield Avenue in Hartford. A \$50,000 reward is being offered.

SOLVED

Have Any Info Regarding This Case?
Connecticut Cold Case
Investigation
1-866-623-8058

♣ J

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UNSOLVED HOMICIDE



Juan Marciano
24 Year Old Male

On February 27, 2007, Juan Marciano was shot at the Greenleaf Public Housing Project in Hartford. He later died from his wounds. A \$50,000 reward is being offered.

SOLVED

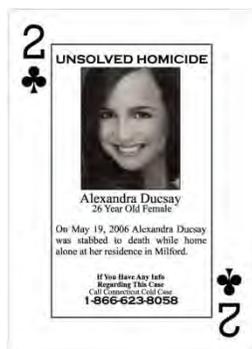
Have Any Info Regarding This Case?
Connecticut Cold Case
Investigation
1-866-623-8058

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Cold Case Arrests and Convictions: The Victims

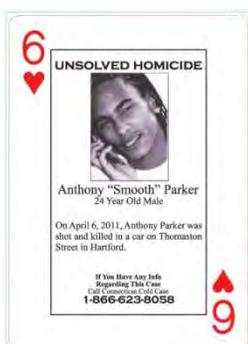
Alexandra Ducsay – Milford - 2006

MATTHEW PUGH was convicted March 2, 2015, of one count of one count of Murder and one count of Burglary in the First Degree in connection with the homicide of Alexandra Ducsay. Ms. Ducsay was found deceased in her Milford home on May 19, 2006, the victim of blunt force trauma. Pugh, formerly of Hamden, was arrested in September 2012 as a result of a lengthy investigation by Milford Police in collaboration with the Cold Case Unit and the Office of the State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Ansonia-Milford.



Anthony Parker – Hartford – 2011

JIMEL "30" or "VELLY" FRANK and KARL "EAGLE" ROYE are charged in the April 2011 homicide of Anthony "Smooth" Parker. Parker, 24, was fatally shot on April 6, 2011, in the Blue Hills section of Hartford. Frank and Royle were arrested on federal complaints in February 2015 as a result of an ongoing investigation into narcotics trafficking by the WestHell and Team Grease street gangs. The investigation is **being conducted by the FBI's Northern Connecticut Violent Crimes Task Force, DEA and the Cold Case Unit.** The FBI Task Force includes the Hartford and East Hartford police departments and the Connecticut State Police and Department of Correction.



Jacklyn Wirth – Norwich – 2011

On February 4, 2015, the Southeastern Connecticut / New London County Cold Case Squad, working with the Norwich Police Department, arrested LASHAWN "B.I." CECIL

in connection with the homicide of Jacklyn Wirth. Ms. Wirth, 26, was fatally shot in her apartment on East Baltic Street in Norwich on December 14, 2011, the presence of her two young sons. Cecil is charged with one count each of Murder, Felony Murder, Criminal Possession of a Firearm and Criminal Attempt to Commit Burglary in the First Degree.



Luis Benitez – Hartford – 2009

NOEL MALDONADO and HECTOR TORRES are charged with Murder and Conspiracy to Commit Murder in connection with the slaying of Luis "Berto" Benitez. The 28-year-old victim was found wounded in the parking lot of a convenience store on New Britain Avenue in Hartford in the early morning hours of December 7, 2009, and died March 14, 2010. Maldonado and Torres were arrested in January 2014 on warrants issued as a result of a grand jury investigation into organized criminal activity, including homicides, in Hartford. The grand jury was conducted in conjunction with the Cold Case/Shooting Task Force Bureau, Office of the State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Hartford, Hartford Shooting Task Force and Hartford Police.



Kathy Hardy – Branford – 2006

Kathy Hardy was the victim of an arson murder at her Branford home on March 7, 2006. While she was asleep, someone set fire to the stairs leading up to the second-floor bedroom,



The charges against those who are arrested are merely accusations and they are presumed innocent unless and until convicted.

Cold Case Arrests and Convictions: The Victims

blocking her escape. In March 2014, a federal grand jury returned an indictment charging JOHN VAILETTE, age 42, also known as "John John" and "Snagglepuss," and STEVEN MARTONE, age 45, in the arson that caused the death of Ms. Hardy. The case is being investigated by the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, the FBI, Branford Police and the Cold Case Unit, with the assistance of the Connecticut State Police, Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit, and the Office of the State's Attorney for the Judicial District of New Haven.

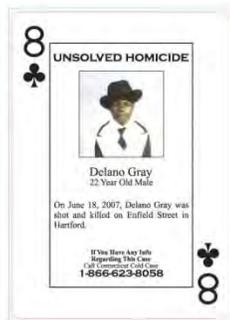
Gertrude "Trudy" Ochankowski – East Hampton – 1998

GERALD BRIAN TUTTLE was arrested in December 2013 in South Carolina and charged with Murder as a fugitive from justice in the homicide of Gertrude "Trudy" Ochankowski. The arrest was the result of an investigation by the East Hampton Police Department in conjunction with the Office of the State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Middlesex and the Cold Case Unit. Ms. Ochankowski was found strangled on January 12, 1998, in a stream just off of Tartia Road in East Hampton.



Delano Gray – Hartford – 2007

DONALD "AMEN" RAYNOR was arrested in June 2013 and charged with Murder, Conspiracy to Commit Murder and Illegal Possession of a Firearm in connection with the shooting death of Delano Gray. The 22-year-old victim was fatally shot in Hartford on June 18, 2007. Raynor, 27 at the time of his arrest, is also charged in connection with the shootings of five other people in Hartford in 2007 and 2008 and the alleged theft and trafficking of firearms in Windsor Locks and



Hartford. The investigation was initiated as a result of a tip received through the cold case playing card project.

Todd Thomas – New London – 2006

DARIUS ARMADORE and GERJUAN TYUS were arrested in November 2012 and charged with Murder and Conspiracy to Commit Murder in the shooting death of Todd Thomas. The arrests are the result of an investigation by the New London Police Department in conjunction with the Southeastern Connecticut/New London County Cold Case Unit and also involving the FBI. The arrests were the first for the New London Police Department working in conjunction with the Cold Case Unit. Mr. Thomas, age 30, was shot on December 23, 2006, outside of a cafe on Bank Street in New London. Armadore and Tyus were identified by investigators as gang members with ties to Dorchester, Mass.



Bertha Reynolds – Norwich – 1993

IRENE REYNOLDS pled no contest in December 2012 to one count of Manslaughter in the Second Degree in connection with the death of her adoptive mother in Norwich on July 9, 1993. Bertha Reynolds was found dead at the foot of the basement stairs in her home on Laurel Hill Avenue. An autopsy determined she had been beaten and strangled. Irene Reynolds, who had been adopted as an infant by the victim and her husband, was 21 years old at the time of the crime.



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Cold Case Arrests and Convictions: The Victims

Tynell Hardwick – Norwich –2008

JOSE E. RAMOS was arrested in September 2012 and charged with Murder and Failure to Appear in the First Degree as a result of a cold case investigation into the 2008 homicide of Tynell "Blue" Hardwick. Ramos was arrested in Queens, N.Y., on September 25, 2012, and waived extradition to Connecticut. A 29-year-old resident of Norwich, Mr. Hardwick was shot and killed as he and friends left a café on Boswell Avenue in Norwich on October 10, 2008.



Renee Pellegrino – Waterford - 1997

DICKIE E. ANDERSON, JR. was convicted in April 2012 of Murder for the homicide of Renee Pellegrino. The 41-year-old victim was found dead on June 25, 1997, on a dead-end street in a rural area of Waterford. Anderson was arrested June 1, 2010, as a result of an investigation conducted by the Southeastern Connecticut Cold Case Unit. He was convicted of Murder on April 4, 2012, following a trial by a jury in New London Superior Court.



Jeanna Flores – Hartford - 2010

LUIS SANCHEZ was convicted in October 2013 for the Murder of Jeanna Flores and the wounding of two other people outside of a club on Franklin Avenue in Hartford on October 7, 2010. Sanchez, age 22 at the time of his arrest, was arrested in February 2012 as

a result of an investigation by the Hartford Police Major Crimes Division in conjunction with the Hartford Shooting Task Force and Cold Case Unit. Also convicted on charges related to the investigation were SANTOS GONZALEZ, found guilty of Hindering Prosecution in the Second Degree, and GINA COLON, convicted of Hindering Prosecution in the Second Degree and Tampering with a Witness.

Kelsey Monahan – Milford - 2001

LUIS ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ was convicted in August 2013 in the strangulation of Kelsey Monahan on May 25, 2001. Rodriguez pled guilty to Manslaughter in the First Degree. Mrs. Monahan, 28, was the victim of an apparent burglary and robbery in her Milford home. An arrest warrant was issued in January 2011 charging Rodriguez as a result of an investigation by Milford Police Department in conjunction with the Cold Case Unit and the Office of the State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Ansonia-Milford. Rodriguez was extradited from Oklahoma where he was serving a federal prison sentence in an unrelated case.



Sean Hill - Norwich - 2006

BRUCE GATHERS pled guilty in March 2013 to Manslaughter in the First Degree with a Firearm in the death of Sean R. Hill. Gathers was incarcerated on related charges at the time of his arrest in 2010 following an investigation by Norwich Police and the South-eastern Connecticut/New London County Cold Case Unit. Gathers and Gregory Smith were previously convicted and sentenced to prison for their roles in a robbery and assault that occurred before Sean Hill was



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Cold Case Arrests and Convictions: The Victims

mortally wounded in the area of Boswell Avenue and Lake Street in Norwich on June 3, 2006. The 19-year-old victim was hit by a shot that rang out after a man he was with fled an apartment where he had been assaulted and robbed. GREGORY SMITH was arrested in 2010 and was convicted in 2013 of Manslaughter in the Second Degree in Sean's homicide.

Orie "Harold" and Assunta Weeks - East Windsor - 1986

PETER WARAKSA pled guilty on October 11, 2012, to criminal charges stemming from the deaths of an East Windsor couple found dead in their home following a fire in 1986. Waraksa was sentenced to serve eight years and eight months in prison to be followed by ten years of **special parole in the deaths of Orie "Harold" Weeks and his wife, Assunta**. Waraksa was a member of the Warehouse Point Fire Department at the time of the fatal fire on October 7, 1986. He pled guilty to two counts of Negligent Homicide and one count each of Arson in the Third Degree and Burglary in the Second Degree. He was arrested in July 2010 - more than 23 years after the crime -- as a result of an investigation by the East Windsor Police Department in conjunction with the Cold Case Unit.

Shawn Dudley - Hartford - 2006

QUAN MORGAN was convicted in October 2011 of the murder of Shawn Dudley some five years earlier in Hartford. Morgan was arrested in February 2011 as a result of information received through cold case playing cards. Mr. Dudley, 19, was fatally shot in the early morning hours of September 24, 2006, while attending a party at the West Indian Social Club in Hartford. **Morgan's** arrest was the first resulting from information received as a result of the distribution of the cold case playing cards. At the time of his arrest, he was being



held in the unrelated shooting death of Edward Haslam.

Edward Haslam - Hartford - 2009

ANTWAN SEASE and QUAN MORGAN were convicted in the 2009 shooting death of Edward Haslam. Mr. Haslam was shot as he tried to drive away while being robbed outside of "Club Vibz" on Main Street in Hartford. Morgan was arrested in May 2010 and subsequently pled guilty to one count each of Felony Murder, Robbery in the First Degree and Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the First Degree. Sease was convicted in June 2011 of one count each of Felony Murder, Robbery in the First Degree and Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the First Degree.



Kerry Foster - Hartford - 2006

PAUL DAVIS was convicted in March 2013 of Accessory to Murder, Conspiracy to Commit Murder and Criminal Attempt to Commit Murder in the death of Kerry Foster. The 15-year-old Foster was killed and a 14-year-old friend wounded in a 2006 drive-by shooting on May 28, 2006, in Hartford. Davis and Ackeem Riley were arrested in August 2009 and charged in the case. Charges against Riley are pending in Hartford Superior Court. ACKEEM RILEY was arrested in August 2009 and charged in the homicide of Kerry Foster and wounding of the second teenager. Riley, who was 16 years old at the time of the shootings, is charged with Capital Felony, Murder, Conspiracy to Commit Murder, Assault in the First Degree and Risk of Injury.



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Cold Case Arrests and Convictions: The Victims

Tray Davis – Hartford – 2006

ACKEEM RILEY was convicted in the shooting death of 16-year-old Tray Davis on November 17, 2006, outside of 714 Garden Street in Hartford. Two other victims, a 13-year-old male and a 21-year-old male, were also discovered at the scene. In December 2007, the then-18-year-old Riley was charged in the homicide. He was convicted in March 2009 of being an Accessory to Murder, Conspiracy to Commit Murder, two counts of Criminal Attempt to Commit Murder and two counts of being an Accessory to Assault in the First Degree. On August 25, 2009, an arrest warrant was issued charging Riley in the unrelated homicide of Kerry Foster and wounding of another victim on May 28, 2006, in Hartford.



Valentin, age 16, who was last seen alive in his car in July 1986.

Myra Cruz – Hartford/East Windsor - 1987

PEDRO MIRANDA is charged with Capital Felony, Felony Murder, Murder and Kidnapping in the First Degree in the death of 13-year-old Myra Cruz, whose body was found in a wooded area in East Windsor in October 1987. Miranda was placed on the Sex Offender Registry as a result of his conviction for the 1998 sexual assault of a 24-year-old woman in West Hartford.



Carmen Lopez – Hartford - 1988

PEDRO MIRANDA, a registered sex offender from New Britain, was convicted of the 1988 Murder of Carmen Lopez. A jury found Miranda guilty of Capital Felony, Murder, Felony Murder and Kidnapping in the First Degree. Ms. Lopez, age 17, was found strangled on January 5, 1988, in an apartment in Hartford. The Cold Case Unit initiated its investigation in July 2008 after new information was brought to the attention of the Hartford **State's Attorney** by the Connecticut Innocence Project and the conviction of another man in the homicide of Carmen Lopez was vacated.



Efrain Hernandez – Hartford - 2007

ALEXANDER TORRES and SAMUEL QUILES were convicted in connection with the homicide of Efrain Rodriguez, who was fatally wounded outside of a Hartford restaurant in November 2007. Torres, who was 16 years old at the time of the crime, was arrested in August 2008 and subsequently pled guilty to Manslaughter in the First Degree. The arrest followed an investigatory grand jury investigation into the Rodriguez homicide. Quiles was arrested in October 2009 and convicted of Carrying a Pistol Without a Permit, Possession of Narcotics and Perjury for lying to the grand jury.



Rosa Valentin – Hartford - 1986

PEDRO MIRANDA is charged with Murder in the disappearance of Rosa



Hartford Sexual Assault - 1988

DUANE FOSTER pled guilty in April 2010 to one count of Kidnapping in the First Degree for the January 1988 kidnapping, robbery and sexual assault of a Hartford woman. Foster was arrested in November 2008 as a result of an investigation by the Hartford Police Major

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Crimes Division, Department of Correction and the Cold Case Unit. The law applicable to the case placed a five-year statute of limitations on the prosecution of Sexual Assault and Robbery committed in 1988. However, there is no statute of limitations on the prosecution of Kidnapping in the First Degree, the offense to which Foster pled guilty more than twenty years after the crime was committed.

Nilsa Arizmendi – Wethersfield - 2003



WILLIAM DEVIN HOWELL was

convicted of Manslaughter in the First Degree in the homicide of Nilsa Arizmendi, who was last seen alive in July 2003 in Wethersfield. Howell was arrested in May 2005 in Hampton, Virginia. DNA analysis determined that blood evidence found in Howell's van was from the 33-year-old victim. The van was seized in North Carolina in April 2004 pursuant to a search warrant issued in Connecticut. Howell had been arrested in North Carolina in an unrelated matter. State authorities are seeking **the public's assistance to determine the source** of additional blood found in the van. Additional evidence recovered from the van indicated that a substantial amount of blood from a second, unidentified individual was present.

Carmen Rodriguez – Hartford - 2001

EDWIN SNELGROVE, Jr., was convicted of Murder in February 2005 for the slaying of Carmen Rodriguez. The victim was last seen with Snelgrove leaving a bar on Capitol Avenue in Hartford in September 2001. Her body was discovered in Rhode Island in January 2002. Snelgrove was arrested in 2003. He had previous convictions for Manslaughter and Attempted Murder from two separate incidents that occurred in New Jersey in the 1980s.

Aida Quinones – Rosali Jimenez – Alesia Ford - Hartford

MATTHEW JOHNSON was convicted in February 2004 of three counts of Murder for the slayings of three women found murdered in the Asylum Hill neighborhood of Hartford. He was arrested as a result of an investigation into the deaths of nine women in the Hartford area over the course of seven years. Five deaths occurred in a particular area of Asylum Hill, and three of the victims were tied to Johnson by DNA evidence. Johnson was convicted in the deaths of Aida Quinones, whose body was found in April 2000; Rosali Jimenez, whose body was found in August 2000; and Alesia Ford, whose body was found in July 2001.

Darrel K. Ashton – Burlington - 1980

OMAR ALI (also known as Herbert L. Ross, Sr.) was convicted in August 2003 of Felony Murder and Murder for the 1980 stabbing death of Darrel K. Ashton in Burlington. Ali, who lived in Waterbury at the time of his arrest, was arrested in November 2000. Mr. Ashton was found dead in his Burlington home in May 1980. The arrest and conviction of Ali was the result of an investigation by the Cold Case Unit and Connecticut State Police. Instrumental to the case was fingerprint and DNA evidence recovered from the scene of the crime and analyzed by the State Police Forensic Laboratory .

Ann Marie Cusano – Shelton/Hartford - 1998

GREGORY McARTHUR was convicted in December 2002 of Felony Murder, Manslaughter in the First Degree, Kidnapping in the First Degree and Larceny in the Third Degree in the January 1998 slaying of Ann Marie Cusano of Shelton. Ms. Cusano was reported missing in January 1998. Investigation by Shelton Police led investigators to McArthur's Hartford apartment. McArthur subsequently led detectives to the

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victim's remains in a wooded area of Suffield, in 2000.

Daneil Poulin – Bristol - 1986

JEANETTE POULIN pled guilty under the Alford Doctrine in October 2002 to Manslaughter in the First Degree for the August 1986 death of her infant son, Daniel, in Bristol. The Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner had initially attributed the death of the 6-week-old child to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, but the cause of death was reclassified as "undetermined" after investigators reviewed a previously sealed case report from the Department of Children and Families. A law enacted in 1996 gave investigators access to those files. The investigation by the Cold Case Unit and the Bristol Police Department determined that Daniel Poulin had been suffocated.

Olidor Pelletier – Terryville - 1989

NICOLE PELLETIER was convicted in May 2002 of Murder as an Accessory in the beating death of her husband, Olidor Pelletier. The 31-year-old victim died 13 days after he was found severely beaten in the family home in Terryville on October 2, 1989. Shortly after her husband's death, Pelletier returned to her native New Brunswick, Canada. The State of Connecticut successfully extradited her in July 2001 on a warrant charging her with Murder as an Accessory. Her arrest followed an investigation by the Cold Case Unit and Plymouth Police, which determined that Pelletier planned the murder with her then-boyfriend, Jose Rubert. Rubert was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the murder and testified against Pelletier at her trial.

Concetta "Penny" Serra – New Haven - 1973

EDWARD GRANT was convicted in May 2002 of Murder for the homicide of Concetta "Penny" Serra. The guilty verdict in New Haven Superior Court came some 29 years after the 21-year-old dental assistant was found stabbed to death in a New Haven parking garage in July 1973. Grant, an auto body

mechanic, was living in Waterbury, when he was arrested in June 1999. He was connected to the crime through DNA analysis of evidence found at the scene.

San Chiu Wong – New Britain - 1997

GINO GENTILE and EDGAR DeJESUS were convicted in the March 1997 robbery and slaying of San Chiu Wong in New Britain. Witnesses testified that Gentile fatally shot Wong to avoid being identified as the **perpetrator of a robbery at the victim's** Chinese restaurant. DeJesus, the "wheelman" in the robbery, pled guilty to Manslaughter in the Second Degree.

Hayfield Hemley – Hartford - 1996

BILL ROY HENDERSON was convicted in November 2001 of Murder as an Accessory, Conspiracy to Commit Murder and Tampering with a Witness for the July 24, 1996, killing of 19-year-old Hayfield Hemley on Adam Street in Hartford. Evidence during his trial revealed that Henderson enlisted MICHAEL WRIGHT to murder Mr. Hemley. Wright pleaded guilty to Manslaughter in the First Degree. Following his conviction, Wright cooperated with the prosecution and testified against Henderson. Another defendant, FRANZ MURRAY, pleaded guilty to Conspiracy and Accessory to Assault charges. GARY SIMMS, also known as DONYELL RUTHERFORD, was arrested in April 2006 and subsequently pled guilty to Tampering with a Witness and Conspiracy to Commit Assault in the First Degree.

Carla Terry – Hartford - 1991

ALFRED SWINTON was convicted in March 2001 of Murder in the death of Carla Terry, a 28-year-old mother of two whose body was found on an abandoned dirt road in the North End of Hartford on January 13, 1991. Police first arrested Swinton for the murder in 1991, but a Judge ruled there was not probable cause to pursue the case. He was arrested again in 1998 after advances in forensic science allowed Cold Case investigators to link

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him to bite marks that were found on the victim's body.

Michael Gratic – Hartford - 1997

ANGELA DRESSEL and LISETTE GARRUCINI were convicted on charges stemming from the death of Michael Gratic, who was stabbed during an apparent robbery in Hartford on October 15, 1997. Dressel pleaded guilty in December 2004 to Manslaughter. Carrucini pleaded guilty in February 2005 to Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the First Degree.

Lizzette Hamilton – Hartford - 1998

ORVILLE OWENS and EARL JOSEPHS pled guilty in Federal court to charges stemming from the death of Lizzette Hamilton, who was found dead in her Hartford apartment in June 1998. The victim was bound by duct tape about the face, wrists and ankles and had been stabbed numerous times. Fingerprints were obtained from the duct tape which led to the arrests.

Audley Palmer – Samantha Mitto – Hartford - 1998

On June 9, 1998, two bodies were found in penthouse apartments on Main Street in Hartford. The bodies were badly mutilated and the victims appeared to have been tortured. The victims were identified as Audley Palmer and Samantha Mitto, both of whom were Jamaican nationals. Subsequent investigation disclosed that Mr. Palmer was involved in drug trafficking and that an individual identified as DALE STEWART had worked for him. Further investigation revealed that Stewart and another man robbed, tortured and killed both victims. Stewart was arrested and convicted in federal court. A second suspect is still unidentified.

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