

Memorandum

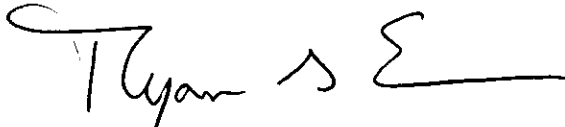


DATE: October 17, 2008

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Homicide Cold Case Squad**

Attached is briefing material on the "Homicide Cold Case Squad" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, October 20, 2008.



Ryan S. Evans
First Assistant City Manager

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Attachment



Homicide Cold Case Squad

Public Safety Committee

October 20, 2008



Cold Case Squad History

- First Cold Case Squad was created in 1979 by Miami-Dade Metro Police Department
- First Dallas Cold Case Squad was created in 1996
- Dallas Squad was disbanded in 2000 due to reallocation of resources within Department
- Two detectives reassigned in 2002 to review cold cases on part-time basis
- Dallas Cold Case Squad with four detectives and a sergeant reestablished in February 2008

Cold Case Squad Staffing

- Specialized Detective Squad
 - Four Detectives and Supervisor
 - Most experienced Detectives are chosen
 - Squad not in rotation of receiving new cases
 - Reviews cases for solvability
 - Respond to inquiries from families and others

Cold Case Investigations

- Utilizes databases such as Auto Track to locate witnesses or suspects never previously discovered or interviewed.
- Capitalize on advances in science
- Physical Evidence
 - DNA
 - Unidentified Fingerprints
 - Previously unidentified projectiles and shell casings
 - Expanding searchable databases

Cold Case Resources

- National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN)
- CODIS (Combined DNA Index System)
- Center For Human Identification University of North Texas
- Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems
- Dallas Morning News Cold Case link
 - Citizens can visit the website to read information on a cold case
 - Cold Case Squad contact information provided on website

Cold Case Solved

- Capital Murder Cleared
May 5, 2008
 - October 3, 1984 Angela M. Somota found brutally murdered in her apartment.
 - Donald Andrew Bess, 60, was identified and charged with the murder of Ms. Somota.



Questions?