

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Public Information

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Joseph Lombardo, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A 32-Year-Old Homicide Cold Case Solved Using Technology

On June 1, 1989, 14-year old Stephanie Isaacson left her home at about 6 a.m. and headed to school. When she did not come home that afternoon, she was reported missing and her body was located late that evening in an empty field near Stewart and Nellis. She had been sexually assaulted and strangled.

LVMPD received a donation from Justin Woo, a Las Vegas resident, on November of 2020 to work on homicide cold cases with minimal DNA. On January 19, 2021, Stephanie's case was selected, and the suspect sample was sent to Othram labs.

On July 12, 2021, Othram Labs advised that with less than 120 picograms of DNA, less than 15 human cells, they were able to identify a suspect through a testing procedure called genome sequencing. Through genealogical research the suspect was identified as Darren R. Marchand, a Las Vegas area resident who committed suicide in 1995.

Marchand had been previously arrested in connection to the murder of Nanette Vanderburg in 1986 but the case was dismissed. Marchand's DNA from the case involving Nanette was compared to the DNA located in Stephanie's case and it was a match.

LVMPD Homicide Cold Case detectives are constantly reviewing cases, looking at advancements in technology, or reviewing tips in order to identify individuals responsible for taking another person's life. LVMPD Homicide wants all victim's families to know they will never stop investigating.

The LVMPD was able to conduct this testing due to a generous donation towards cold case homicides with minimal DNA. If anyone would like to donate towards this cause, they can do so by going to <https://lvmpdfoundation.org/> and designating the donation to the "Homicide Cold Case."

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www.LVMPD.com or www.ProtectTheCity.com

