For Immediate Release
Oct 10, 2013

Detectives Announce Arrest in Cold Case Homicide of Sara Lynn Wineski

Arrested Suspect: Raymond A. Samuels, DOB 12/03/1981

On Sunday afternoon, May 22, 2005, the body of Sara Lynn Wineski, 49, was discovered lying under a secluded wood deck overhang of what was then the Ronald McDonald House at 702 8th Avenue South. Detectives determined that Wineski, who was homeless, had been strangled and sexually assaulted at that location.

At the time a resident of the Ronald McDonald House reported hearing screams at around 11:00 p.m. the previous evening and it appeared that the Wineski had been dead for less than 24 hours.

DNA evidence was recovered at the crime scene and as a result detectives and prosecutors have now charged an Ohio prison inmate with 1st degree murder in the case.

Raymond Samuels had been incarcerated in the Ohio prison system since 2006 for Attempted Murder and Kidnapping. Detectives determined that he had been in the St. Petersburg area for approximately a month during the time of Wineski's murder. It was his DNA which was found at the crime scene and which resulted in his being charged in the case.

Samuels is being extradited back to Florida and is currently in the process of being transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Major Mike Kovacsev of the Crimes Against Persons Division will be available for comments for interested media.

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