

## Jerome Police Department-Idaho

COLD CASE HOMICIDE - CLOSED AFTER 28 YEARS.

PRESS RELEASE 12/20/2023

On August 10, 1995 Jerome Police Officers responded to a homicide at 218 West Ave. I #42, where 84-year-old Wilma Mobley was found deceased, the result of a strangulation and attack with an axe type instrument. Investigators reported three possible suspects during the investigation, one of whom was Danny Lee Kennison, however, no conclusive evidence identifying the specific attacker was developed, and the case eventually became cold.

Over the following years, the case was reviewed, and assistance sought through the FBI, Idaho State Police Lab, and other forensic sources. About 2006, JPD presented the case to the Vidocq Society for analysis which developed only a minor lead, that was unproductive. The case was reviewed by subsequent investigators to get a "fresh pair of eyes" to look at it.

In June, 2022, Sergeant Clinton Wagner was assigned to detectives, and reviewed the case. Due to advances in DNA science, Sergeant Wagner contacted the Idaho State Police Forensic Lab to see if the case could be submitted for DNA analysis. Sergeant Wagner and lab technicians reviewed the evidence collected from the case, and selected items for testing which were delivered to the lab in March, 2023.

On December 18, 2023, Idaho State Police Lab technicians reported finding a significant amount of a DNA profile matching Danny Lee Kennison on a clasp of the victim's underclothing. Danny Kennison and the victim had been neighbors at the time of the homicide, but had no personal relationship. Danny Lee Kennison had committed suicide at his residence in Filer, Idaho in March 2001, so an arrest of the suspect is not feasible. With the amount of DNA matching Kennison, excluding the other suspects mentioned in the case file, and no other DNA profile present, the Jerome Police Department is closing this case.

On December 19, 2023 Detective Sergeant Wagner was able to meet with family members of Wilma Mobley and give them the information that the case is closed. The Jerome Police Department thanks the officers, detectives, and prosecutors who have worked on this case over the years, and helped to preserve the evidence which was available for this testing.

We also greatly appreciate the support and efforts put forth by the members of the Idaho State Police Forensics lab who made this closure possible for the victim's family, and our department.

Duane Rubink

Chief of Police