



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2008-02-0044

May 12, 2008

DOUBLE HOMICIDE

Inspector General David Thomas and OIG Staff Attorney Amanda Schaeffer, after a supplemental investigation by Special Agent Alan McElroy, report as follows:

This case involves the temporary assignment of an Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”) Special Agent, Alan McElroy, to assist a special prosecuting attorney and the Indiana State Police (ISP) in a double-homicide investigation. Special Agent McElroy worked this case as a team member of the ISP Cold Case Homicide Team before joining the OIG. After Special Agent McElroy’s departure from ISP due to his new employment with the OIG, Special Prosecuting Attorney Dave Powell requested the OIG to permit Special Agent McElroy to assist in the final preparation and submission of the 20-year old cold case before a grand jury. This request was honored.

The facts leading to this grand jury submission are as follows. On November 19, 1988 at 1:20 a.m., the bodies of Ricky Mustard, age 32, and his step-daughter, Tonya Pickett, age 16, were discovered in their home in Clay County, Indiana. Cheryl Pickett, the wife of Ricky and mother of Tonya, discovered their bodies when she returned home from work. The manner of death was gunshot wounds to the heads of the victims.

The case went unsolved for twenty years. During this time span, several investigations were attempted without developing enough evidence to prosecute. However, in July of 2002, OIG Special Agents McElroy and Bud Allcron, then serving the State as the ISP Cold Case Homicide Team, were assigned by the ISP Superintendent to investigate this double homicide. Their two-year investigation led to the appointment of a special prosecuting attorney to review the case for prosecution.

In early 2008, Special Agent McElroy, on assignment from the OIG and under the direction of Prosecutor Powell, participated in final witness interviews, document review, and the organization of evidence to be presented to the grand jury. This submission to the grand jury occurred in February through March of 2008. On March 26, 2008, a true bill indictment was issued against the target of both murders.

Dated this 12th day of May, 2008.



David O. Thomas, Inspector General