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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
APRIL 12, 2019

**Last co-defendant sentenced to 110 months in prison for the 1995 death of Darrin Ezell**

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 49-year-old Selwyn Stafford received a 110 month prison sentence for his participation in the events that led to the 1995 death of 24-year-old Darrin Ezell.

Selwyn Stafford pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter in the second degree with a firearm and one count of robbery in the first degree.

In court on April 12, 2019, Mr. Ezell's father, George Banks, called the death of his son "senseless."

"Taking my son's life has affected a lot of people," Mr. Banks said. "This won't bring my son back, but I hope it will give him (Selwyn Stafford) time to think about what he did."

"This case has been a long road," said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Melissa Marrero who prosecuted this case along with Chief Deputy District Attorneys John Casalino and Kirsten Snowden. "This was a horrible thing that happened. Mr. Ezell was loved by his family."

This investigation started on December 20, 1995, at approximately 7:30 a.m., when law enforcement responded to Mr. Ezell's residence in the 9300 block of Southeast Ramona Street in Portland, Oregon after receiving a 9-1-1 call from his girlfriend who found him bleeding in bed.

Officers assigned to the Portland Police Bureau arrived and located Mr. Ezell suffering from critical gunshot wounds inside his residence. Mr. Ezell was transported to the hospital but died as a result of his injuries. Investigators located two uninjured children in the home.

When Mr. Ezell was killed, investigators had very few leads. Despite the best efforts of the Portland Police Bureau, this case went cold. In 2006, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and the Portland Police Bureau's Cold Case Homicide Unit conducted an extensive review of this case. In subsequent years, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and the Portland Police Bureau continued efforts to identify those responsible for killing Mr. Ezell.

In 2013, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and Portland Police Bureau re-opened case to develop new investigative leads. Included in those discussions were Multnomah County Chief Deputy District Attorneys Kirsten Snowden, John Casalino, Deputy District Attorney Melissa Marrero and Portland Police Bureau Detectives Jim Lawrence and Meredith Hopper.

During the investigation, law enforcement learned that a vehicle, driven by Danny Conner, cut off Mr. Ezell's girlfriend as she left for work on December 20, 1995. Conner, armed with a handgun, entered the vehicle belonging to Mr. Ezell's girlfriend and held her captive. Adrian Stafford, Selwyn Stafford and Vinson White entered Mr. Ezell's residence using a house key that was taken from Mr. Ezell's girlfriend and started looking for drugs and money. While inside the residence, Adrian Stafford shot and killed Mr. Ezell.

On December 12, 2014, the grand jury indicted Selwyn Stafford and his brother, Adrian Stafford, for the death of Mr. Ezell.

Ultimately, all four suspects were indicted. Both Conner and White previously pleaded guilty. Adrian Stafford pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter in the first degree and criminal conspiracy to commit robbery in the first degree. He will be serving a 228 month prison sentence.

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The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office recognizes the work of the Portland Police Bureau and in particular Detectives Jim Lawrence and Meredith Hopper and other members of this office for their dedicated efforts in solving this case.

The Portland Police Bureau Cold Case Homicide Unit's slogan is: "We don't give up. We never give up."

Information about many of the unsolved homicides in the City of Portland can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

The Portland Police Bureau Cold Case Homicide Unit has a close partnership with the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and the Oregon State Police Crime Lab.

When resources permit, such as in this case, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office will convene a cold case homicide team that includes several misdemeanor-level prosecutors and interns, who have typically been with the office for a year or less, to help one or more felony-level prosecutors in reviewing a cold case homicide file, exploring new investigative strategies and assisting with any prosecution efforts that may result. The objective of this cold case homicide team, when assembled, is to provide extensive training to the newer misdemeanor-level attorneys while working with the Portland Police Bureau Cold Case Homicide Unit, and other veteran prosecutors and investigators, to solve a cold case homicide.

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