



RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING CURRENT AND RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE NASHUA POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL WORK IN THE 1988 COLD CASES OF BRENDA WARNER AND CHARLENE RANSTROM

CITY OF NASHUA

In the Year Two Thousand and Eighteen

WHEREAS, on October 3, 1988 Brenda Warner and Charlene Ranstrom were found murdered in their Nashua home. On October 6, 1988 Anthony Barnaby provided a confession that also implicated David Caplin. Three trials against Anthony Barnaby were held in 1989 and 1990, each ending in a mistrial. Ultimately the charges against Anthony Barnaby and David Caplin were dropped and they were released and returned to their home in Canada.

WHEREAS, in 2010, then Detective Sergeant Frank Bourgeois re-opened this double homicide case after attending a cold case training seminar. Detective Bourgeois and Detective Rob McLeod reviewed the investigative file, located evidence and witnesses, and discussed retesting some of the physical evidence using new technologies. The retesting resulted in finding David Caplin's DNA throughout the crime scene. In addition, detectives took the unusual and extraordinary steps of traveling to Listuguj, Quebec and to Montreal to interview witnesses and the defendants. New evidence of intent along with the new DNA evidence supported arrest warrants for Caplin and Barnaby in May of 2011. While arrest warrants were acted upon by Canada in May of 2011, the extradition process extended over the next four years. In the end, with the assistance of the Ministers of Justice in Canada and the Department of Justice in DC, the Canadian Supreme Court ordered both Barnaby and Caplin returned to the United States to face the murder charges. In May of 2015, Sergeant Patrick Hannon and Sergeant Daniel Mederos were assigned to this case and have seen it through to both defendants' convictions this year. Over the seven years of their work on this case, both Sgt. Hannon and Sgt. Mederos have gone above and beyond the normal confines of investigative work to put together a triable case against each defendant.

WHEREAS, the extraordinary efforts and support provided by the Nashua Police Department led to the defendants being held accountable for the murders of Brenda Warner and Charlene Ranstrom.

WHEREAS, all of the officers involved in the original investigation who continued to be willing to attend meetings and hearings were also crucial to achieving the successful final result. Notably, Wayne MacDonald and Tim Hefferan gave outstanding and persuasive testimony at a suppression hearing in February of 2017.

RESOLUTION

R-18-089

WHEREAS, throughout the process of preparing for trial over the last several years, the efforts of the officers in charge of Nashua's evidence room, including Brian Battaglia, Andy Hagan and most recently Steve Berry, in collecting and identifying the pertinent pieces of evidence in this case were invaluable.

WHEREAS, the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of the Nashua Police Department greatly contributed to the success of these prosecutions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nashua that the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nashua sincerely appreciate and recognize the current and retired members of the Nashua Police Department for their exceptional work on the Brenda Warner and Charlene Ranstrom cases.

LEGISLATIVE YEAR 2018

RESOLUTION: R-18-089

PURPOSE: Recognizing current and retired members of the Nashua Police Department for their exceptional work in the 1988 cold cases of Brenda Warner and Charlene Ranstrom

ENDORSERS: Mayor Jim Donchess
Board of Aldermen

**COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENT:**

FISCAL NOTE: None.

ANALYSIS

This resolution recognizes the Nashua Police Department for their dedication and commitment to the resolution of the Warner and Ranstrom homicide cases.

Approved as to form: Office of Corporation Counsel

By: Dorothy Clarke

Date: 8 November 2018