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PRESS RELEASE
CHARGES FILED IN 1991 HOMICIDE
8/10/10

Nineteen years to the day after Despina Magioudis was murdered, the Shasta County District Attorney's Office is announcing the filing of charges in connection with her death. Brian Eric Norton, currently serving a prison sentence in Iowa for rape, has been charged with Murder and a special circumstance of murder during the commission of a crime, namely rape.

The filing of these charges was made possible by the excellent team effort by the Redding Police Department and the Department of Justice. The Redding Police Department conducted a thorough and complete investigation both in 1991 and more recently. The Department of Justice is to be commended for their stellar work in collecting, preserving and ultimately matching the DNA evidence that is the key evidence in this case. Both agencies are to be commended for their dedication and commitment to solving this crime regardless of the age of the crime.

Given the importance of this case, Senior Deputy District Attorney Kelly Kafel accompanied Redding Police Investigators to Iowa to provide legal assistance, advice, prepare legal documents necessary to conduct the investigation and make local contacts to facilitate the extradition process.

Although Norton is currently not scheduled for release from Iowa State Prison until February 2012, we will begin the extradition process immediately now that an arrest warrant has been issued. The length of time needed to return Norton to Shasta County is dependent upon his decision to waive extradition or fight extradition and the complexity of the process in Iowa. Extraditions are approved through the offices of the respective Governor's of each state.

Because there is a special circumstance alleged Norton faces the possibility of the death penalty or life without the possibility of parole. Given the violent nature of this offense and the violent nature of his Iowa offense, the District Attorney will review whether the death penalty is warranted according to an established protocol.

This case is an example of law enforcement's commitment to never forget victims of violent crime and the promise that with patience and perseverance we can solve crimes and seek justice for victims and their families.