

Press Release

Tulsa County Sheriff's Office

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**Tulsa County Sheriff's Office
Press Information
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1991 Homicide Case Closed

The suspect in a 1991 Tulsa County murder case has been located. Lawrence Durand died naturally of liver cancer on September 7, 2002, in Door County, WI. Durand was wanted for the 1991 shooting death of Victor McCormick, inside a north Tulsa County bar. Durand had avoided arrest for the murder by living under an assumed identity for 11 years. The positive identification of Durand and confirmation of his death will allow the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office to formally close the 16 year old homicide case.

A warrant for Durand's arrest was issued in 1991 shortly after the murder. The warrant was entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) at that time. Durand avoided being arrested on the murder charge for 11 years, despite numerous arrests in several states for other crimes. One of the arrests was for the stabbing death of an Arizona man during the 1990's.

The investigation was re-opened in April of 2006, tracking Durand through time and across the United States, through Georgia, Utah, California, Nevada, Michigan, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and finally to Wisconsin. Durand used several alias names but primarily used the identity of a man currently living in Florida. The man had been a Tulsa resident and the victim of an auto theft about the same time as the Tulsa murder. It is believed that paperwork located inside the vehicle allowed Durand to accomplish the identity theft.

The Victor McCormick murder case is one of the first homicide cases re-examined by the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office under a "Cold Case" project started in 2006. Under the project, Reserve Deputy Jim Hardin donated his time by locating, organizing and working with the old homicide files located in the basement of the Sheriff's Office. Criminal Investigations Unit Sergeant Gary Frazier developed policies and procedures for the program's operation and is acting as the case manager for the old murder cases. Other resources are used as needed, on a case by case basis. The McCormick murder investigation involved the assistance of law enforcement personnel from 22 agencies across the United States.