



## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 4, 2014

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The Chapel Hill Police Department and NC SBI are releasing this information now with the hope that it will allow a community member to provide information that will assist in the investigation.

Additional materials will be provided for media personnel at the conclusion of today's briefing.

- At approximately 11:00am on September 7, 2012, officers with the Chapel Hill Police Department received a call to the Hawthorne at the View apartment complex located at 5639 Old Chapel Hill Road in reference to a possible dead body located in apartment 1502.
- When officers arrived, they were greeted by the primary tenant of apartment 1502, Karena Rosario, who advised that she had found the victim, Faith Hedgepeth, inside and that she was unresponsive.
- Officers located Faith Hedgepeth dead in a bedroom inside. Faith's body was found on the floor leaning against the bed with her shirt pulled up; she had no clothes on from the waist down.
- There was pooled blood near her body and blood spatter on the wall and bedroom closet door. A note written on a take-out fast-food bag was also located on the bed. (Copies of the note will be provided for you.)
- An autopsy determined that Faith's death was caused by blunt force trauma to the head resulting from a beating.
- A sexual assault kit was collected, which revealed the presence of semen. It was determined that the DNA profile generated from this semen matched other DNA evidence which was also recovered from the crime scene. Investigators believe that this DNA belongs to the person responsible for Faith Hedgepeth's murder.
- Investigators determined that, prior to her death, Faith Hedgepeth and Karena Rosario visited Davis Library on the UNC campus at approximately 7:30 pm and arrived home shortly after midnight. At a little before 1AM on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, they arrived at the Wallace Parking Deck on East Rosemary Street and walked to The Thrill bar. Hedgepeth and Rosario left the bar together at 2:38 am and drove home in Faith's car, a white Nissan Altima. Investigators believe the pair

returned home and that Rosario left the apartment at 4:27 am. Rosario returned home with a friend at approx. 11 am that morning, at which time she discovered Hedgepeth's body.

- Investigators of the Chapel Hill Police Department and agents of the NC SBI, have collected hundreds of items of evidence; interviewed friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, classmates, etc. and consulted with experts in various scientific fields of study.
- Investigators have executed numerous search warrants and court orders for computers, cellular phones, social media accounts, financial records, etc. Investigators have asked persons of interest to provide oral DNA swabs so that their DNA could be compared to the DNA profile of the offender. Hundreds of DNA samples have been collected and analyzed during the course of this investigation. None of the samples have been found to match the DNA profile of the offender.
- Investigators have excellent evidence in this case and we are making a public appeal for any information that will help us tie that evidence to Faith's killer.
- This is not a cold case. It has been and remains an active investigation.
- Reward money has been pledged from a number of sources and there is over \$40,000 in reward money available in this case.
- If anyone has information that they wish to provide, please contact investigators at 919-614-6363. If you call this number, you will speak directly to one of the Investigators who are assigned to this case and are familiar with it. This number will be staffed 24 hours a day.

Anyone wishing to provide information anonymously can contact Chapel Hill-Carrboro-UNC Crimestoppers at 919-942-7515 or at <http://www.crimestoppers-chcunc.org/>.