

## For Immediate Release – June 28, 2011

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Today, the state grand jury impaneled by Attorney General, John Suthers, issued a statement regarding his investigation into the murder of Peggy Hettrick in 1987. While her death remains an open criminal investigation, the grand jury statement clearly indicates that Timothy Masters is no longer considered to be a suspect in death of Ms. Hettrick.

Rule 3.6 and 3.8 of The Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct precludes prosecutors from publicly commenting on the guilt or innocence of any individual who may be subject to an ongoing investigation. However, in light of the current statement, I believe it is appropriate as the current District Attorney and on behalf of the criminal justice system in Larimer County to express our apologies to Timothy Masters, his family and friends for the conviction and sentence he endured 12 years ago.

America has the best criminal justice system in the world; however, no system is perfect. It is a tragedy for any person to be prosecuted for a crime they did not commit. The tragedy is compounded when that person is convicted and incarcerated. It is worth noting that the same criminal justice system which led to the conviction of Timothy Masters, also led to his release from custody and the setting aside of his conviction.

We are thankful that physical evidence obtained in 1987 was dutifully preserved by law enforcement and therefore still available for new DNA testing by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in 2007. Our office's decision to dismiss the criminal charges against Timothy Masters was a direct result of this new DNA evidence obtained from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

Our hope is that after many years of turmoil, Mr. Masters and his family can finally put this ordeal behind them and we can all move forward in hopes of eventually obtaining finality and resolution for Peggy Hettrick and her family.

Lest we forget, Peggy Hettrick's family is still waiting for her killer to be brought to justice. Perhaps some new, future, scientific advancement will occur that will lead to her killer being brought to justice, just as new DNA technology led to the dismissal of all charges against Mr. Masters.

