

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, June 25, 2026

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# Man Arrested for 1999 Balboa Park Homicide

**San Diego** – Detectives with the San Diego Police Department’s Cold Case Unit have arrested a suspect in connection with the 1999 murder of Diane Ayres in Balboa Park.

On September 4, 1999, golfers noticed a body in the bushes in the 1800 block of Golf Course Drive and contacted police. Responding officers located a deceased female, later identified as Diane Ayres, a 23-year-old San Diego resident. The San Diego County Medical Examiner’s Office determined that Ayres died as the result of strangulation.

Over the years, cold case investigators reexamined forensic evidence collected during the original investigation. Those efforts ultimately led to the identification of the suspect, Christopher Creek.

The San Diego Police Department worked closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office throughout the investigation.

Creek, 52, was found at Dodge State Prison in Chester, Georgia serving a sentence for an unrelated offense.

On June 16, 2026, he was arrested on a San Diego homicide warrant by the Laurens County Sheriff’s Department and transferred into the Laurens County Jail.

On June 23, 2026, Creek was extradited to San Diego and booked into Central Jail. He is scheduled to be arraigned today, Thursday, June 25, 2026.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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