

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POLICE ARREST SUSPECT IN 1995 SEXUAL ASSAULT SERIES

Between August 18, 1995 and November 17, 1995, four women were sexually assaulted at knife point in the City of San Diego. In each case, the victim agreed to participate in a sexual assault examination to collect physical evidence from the assault. The DNA evidence recovered revealed the same suspect committed all four crimes, but he was unidentified. The San Diego Police Department began participating in CODIS in 1999 and entered DNA evidence from these cases and there were no matches.

In March 2002, and November 2004, two more women were sexually assaulted in Riverside County. These women were also sexually assaulted at knife point, and DNA evidence was recovered linking these cases to the same suspect as the 1995 cases in San Diego. Unfortunately, the suspect was still unidentified.

In February 2019, the San Diego Police Department Sex Crimes Unit reached out to the FBI Forensic Genetic Genealogy Team for help. The group worked together and were eventually able to identify a potential suspect using public access genealogical databases. The investigation identified direct family members of the potential suspect when their DNA was compared to the DNA profile developed from the evidence at the scene.

In April 2019, the San Diego Police Department identified Christopher VanBuskirk (DOB 07-17-1972) as the suspect responsible for all six sexual assault cases. The San Diego District Attorney's Office issued an arrest warrant for Christopher Vanbuskirk who currently resides in Goodyear, AZ. On April 29, 2019, San Diego Police Department Sex Crimes Unit Detectives travelled to Goodyear, Arizona and coordinated with the Phoenix Police Department, Riverside County Sheriffs' Office, and FBI to arrest VanBuskirk. Vanbuskirk was booked into Maricopa County Jail on April 29, 2019 and extradited to San Diego on May 6, 2019 where he will be charged for the 1995 cases.

The San Diego Police Department would like to thank the FBI, Riverside Sheriff's Office, the Phoenix Police Department, the San Diego Police Department Crime Lab, and the San Diego District Attorney's Office for their help in solving this sexual assault series.

Anyone with information on these cases or similar cases is asked to call the SDPD's Sex Crimes Unit at (619) 531-2210 or the Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line at (888) 580-8477.

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