



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

PAUL E. ZELLERBACH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

For Immediate Release
Oct. 3, 2014

John Hall
Senior Public Information Specialist
Contact: 951.955.8662

DA'S OFFICE DISMISSES CHARGES AGAINST TWO MEN IN PINYON PINES TRIPLE MURDER

RIVERSIDE – Today, Oct. 3, 2014, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office dismissed all charges against two men who had been charged with the 2006 murders of three people found dead at their Pinyon Pines home.

The District Attorney's Office made the motion to dismiss at the Larson Justice Center in Indio and a judge granted that motion pertaining to Robert Lars Pape, DOB: 5-16-88; and Cristin Conrad Smith, DOB: 10-10-88. The two had been charged in case INF1400640 with three counts of murder in the deaths of Jon Hayward, Vicki Friedli, and Vicki's daughter, Becky Friedli.

On Sept. 17, 2006, at about 9:50 p.m., a fire was reported at the Friedli home on Alpine Drive in Pinyon Pines where the three victims lived. When firefighters arrived they found Becky Friedli's body burning outside in a wheelbarrow about 70 feet from the home, which was also in flames. After firefighters extinguished the blaze, they found the bodies of Hayward and Vicki Friedli inside the home. It was determined that both Hayward and Vicki Friedli had been shot.

Earlier this year, Pape was indicted by the grand jury and, after a preliminary hearing, a judge ordered Smith to stand trial.

Upon a closer review of the grand jury proceedings, the District Attorney's Office has determined that legal issues arose during the proceedings against defendant Pape that make it appropriate to dismiss the case at this time.

Although defendant Smith was held to answer after a preliminary hearing, the District Attorney's Office has concluded that it would not be appropriate to continue the criminal proceedings solely against defendant Smith so the charges against both men have been dismissed.

The DA's Office is committed to continuing its investigation into these murders and believes and expects that murder charges will be refiled in the near future.

Because the investigation into the murders is ongoing, there will be no further comment on this matter at this time.