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NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JAN. 12, 2018

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**MAN SENTENCED FOR 1992 MURDER OF PALM DESERT MAN
WHOSE REMAINS WERE FOUND IN A NEVADA STREAMBED**

RIVERSIDE – A man was sentenced today, Jan. 12, 2018, to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder of a Palm Desert man in a cold case that happened nearly 26 years ago.

Russell Jay Huber, DOB: 8-17-58, was sentenced by Judge Bernard Schwartz at the Hall of Justice in Riverside. A Riverside County jury convicted Huber of first-degree murder on Dec. 6, 2017, after about three hours of deliberations. Jurors also found the allegation of lying in wait to be true.

On July 6, 1992, Clyde Gregory Hayward, 41, was reported missing by his girlfriend. She had last seen him three days earlier when they made plans for a date on July 6, but he never arrived and was never seen alive again. Hayward's abandoned pickup was found on July 19, 1992, along Highway 95. Law enforcement officers found evidence in that area of a shooting as well as dried blood.

The investigation into Hayward's disappearance went cold until May 2014 when human remains found buried in a streambed at Christmas Tree Pass in Clark County, Nevada in early 1993 were identified through DNA as being Hayward's remains. Riverside County sheriff's Central Homicide Unit Cold Case investigators reopened the case at that time and began working with the Riverside County District Attorney's Office Cold Case Unit in 2016.

In 2016, investigators were notified that fingerprint evidence along with DNA evidence connected Huber with the scene where Hayward's truck was found. Huber's DNA was found on a cigarette butt in Hayward's abandoned pickup and on another cigarette butt found a short distance from the truck near expended shell casings and dried blood.

In February 2017, Huber was arrested with the assistance of U.S. Marshals in Oroville, Calif.

Primary investigators in the case included sheriff's Inv. Jennifer Cole and DA's Inv. Ryan Bodmer.

The case, RIF1606115, was prosecuted by Deputy DA Michael Kersse of the DA's Cold Case Team.

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