

# ATTACHMENT 3

A.P. Wehner Jr.  
109 Spengler Street  
Richland, WA 99354  
509-392-3582

July 26, 2019

Re: Formation of an AG statewide cold case unit

To Whom It May Concern,

After 35 years of service I retired in 2014 as a captain with the Richland Police Department. Much of my career was involved in criminal investigations. Since 2015 I have worked as a Special Investigator with the Kennewick Police Department, investigating their cold case homicides, missing persons, and unusual deaths.

I have had the opportunity to see first-hand the benefit of the Attorney General's HITS Unit. In 1997 I attended the HITS regional unsolved homicide meetings for southeastern Washington. The HITS investigator's knowledge and assistance in the then newly developed DNA front helped spark the interest that aided in the resolution of several unsolved cold cases in our area. This included the arrest and conviction of a person for a 20-year old homicide that I investigated for Richland PD.

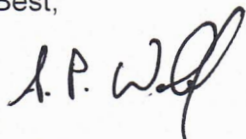
Since then I have attended HITS training that has been very beneficial. I keep in periodic contact with HITS investigators as I continue investigating cold cases. Their knowledge, experience, and willingness to assist in any way possible has been outstanding.

The quickly evolving world of DNA, especially with the advancements in forensic genealogy, is totally changing law enforcement's approach to investigating cold cases. This, coupled with the ability to dedicate specific personnel and resources to work just cold cases, will provide new hope to victim's families and friends. Even in those unfortunate cases that cannot ultimately be resolved, it's critically important for families, friends and the community to know a victim has not been forgotten and everything reasonably possible is being done to try and bring closure to their life altering event.

I very strongly support the idea of forming a statewide cold case unit in the Attorney General's Office. With the knowledge, experience, commitment and dedication of their employees, the AG's office is again in a position to lead the state in solving cold cases, much as they were in 1997. It's the right thing to do, at the right time, for the right reasons.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or if I may be of any assistance.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.P. Wehner Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

A. P. Wehner Jr.

## ATTACHMENT 3

To: Members of the State Legislature

From: Robert D. Keppel, Ph.D.

Re: Cold Case Squad in the Attorney General's Office

This memo is written in support of creating and funding a cold case squad within the State Attorney General's Office. Some murders and rapes become more complicated and unsolved as time goes on. When I was the Chief Criminal Investigator, the cases I investigated were mostly unsolved. My first two cases were against Russ Howard of Yakima County and in Island County Nettie Ruth Neslund who were eventually convicted of murdering their spouses. The Neslund case was a no body murder case and was considered the most difficult case to solve.

The AG's Criminal Division is the best place to establish a cold case squad. It has experienced personnel to lead such an effort and has a great relationship with criminal attorneys who are needed for the follow-up and prosecution of these difficult investigations.

I would be willing to provide advice to the AG's office for this very important function. If you have any questions, please call me at 425-271-4081.

# ATTACHMENT 3

*Dave Reichert*  
*PO Box 567*  
*Auburn, WA 98071*

July 30, 2019

RE: Washington State Attorney General's Office Cold Case Unit

Greetings,

I write to express my support of the Washington State Attorney General's Office Cold Case Unit. As the former Sheriff for King County and law enforcement officer of more than 33 years, I know first-hand the value of dedicating resources to solving cold cases. I was the lead detective on the Green River serial homicides which spanned nearly two decades. These unspeakable murders devastated the victims' families, friends and the entire community.

Although the perpetrator was eventually identified thanks to a dedicated task force of investigators and advances in DNA technology, there are still unidentified victims waiting to be given their names back and missing women waiting to be found. The family members of unsolved homicide victims are left in a perpetual state of grief and each new success story they see on the news fuels their desire for answers in their loved one's case.

Now is an exciting time for cold case investigations around the country thanks to recent advances in forensic technology. I recognize the need for a statewide approach to investigating cold cases, as most agencies lack the resources necessary to dedicate full-time investigators to the crucial mission of solving cold cases. I believe the citizens of Washington would benefit greatly from the additional resources and expertise which could be provided by the Washington State Attorney General's Office Cold Case Unit.

Sincerely,



Dave Reichert  
Retired King County Sheriff  
Former Member of United States Congress

## ATTACHMENT 3



U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

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In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime  
Behavioral Analysis Unit-4  
Violent Criminal Apprehension Program  
FBI Academy  
Quantico, Virginia 22135

July 29, 2019

Senior Investigator Lindsey Wade  
Office of the Attorney General  
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Senior Investigator Wade,

I am writing to you to express my support for the creation of a state-wide cold case unit at the Washington State Attorney General's Office.

The need for a state-wide cold case unit has never been more critical. It is estimated that over 280,000 cases nationwide have remained unsolved since 1980 and the window of opportunity to prosecute these cases continues to narrow. Many offenders, and more importantly witnesses, are advancing in age, if they are not already deceased. Although advancements in DNA analysis and other forensic techniques have greatly enhanced the possibility of identifying and prosecuting an offender, the investigative shortfall today involves the complexity of *putting the pieces together*, especially across jurisdictional lines. Law enforcement investigators realize that many one-time and serial offenders relocate to different geographical areas after the commission of an offense. Some move because they know the challenge it presents for an investigation. Many local police departments do not have the resources to conduct extensive investigations outside their jurisdiction. A state-wide cold case unit with sufficient resources is in the best position to address these complex investigations and ensure that justice is done. Having a state-wide cold case unit will help alleviate many of the investigative hurdles that currently exist. Use of this state-wide cold case unit concept in other areas of the country has resulted in hundreds of cold cases being resolved. The closure that resolution provides for the victims' families is immeasurable.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 703-632-4189 or [kpfitzsimmons@fbi.gov](mailto:kpfitzsimmons@fbi.gov).

Sincerely,

Kevin P. Fitzsimmons  
Supervisory Crime Analyst  
Behavioral Analysis Unit-4/ViCAP

## ATTACHMENT 3



### Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Team Detective James H. Scharf August 1, 2019



RE: Washington State Attorney General's Office Cold Case Unit

To whom it may concern,

I have been a Major Crimes detective with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office since 1995. I was assigned as one of the two founding members of the Cold Case Team in February 2005. We were the second agency in the State of Washington to have a Team working Cold Cases full time after Seattle PD. Most agencies work Cold Cases in addition to their active cases and the cold ones suffer on the back burner.

Since our Team was formed, we have been successful in solving nine cold homicide cases, one cold rape case and two missing person cases. No cold cases were ever solved when the cold cases were assigned to the Major Crimes Unit, because there was never time to work them.

Agencies in the State of Washington need a new approach. They need leadership from the Attorney General's Office to kick start these cold cases, because **they can be solved**. I know you have good homicide detectives in the AG's office that know how to work cold cases. David Heitzman was the other founding cold case investigator here. He was my original partner. I have worked on a cold case investigation with Bob Thompson when he worked in Bellevue. When Lindsey Wade was in Tacoma, she and I worked on cold cases together and she steered me in the right direction to network with the right people that got a couple of our cases solved.

I was the second detective in the country to use Forensic or Genetic Genealogy to make an arrest in a cold case and the first in the world to get a conviction from a GG arrest. This tool of Genetic Genealogy is the greatest tool law enforcement has been given since the discovery of DNA. It is the ultimate weapon to identify suspects if they leave their DNA at a crime scene. In a short period of time, most any Caucasian in this country will be at risk of being identified through the use of GG if they leave their DNA at a crime scene.

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There are about 1600 unsolved homicides and 1800 unsolved rapes in Washington State. We have the ability to solve many of them if we can review all of the evidence (to determine if suspect DNA is present) being stored and ignored in police agency property rooms. Someone needs to take the lead to work with investigators throughout this state to jump start these investigations. The HITS Unit at the Attorney General's Office is just that someone.

I have worked with HITS investigators for years. People like Bob Keppel, Marv Skeen, Cloyd Steiger, Frank Tennison, Gary Trent, Dick Gagnon, Greg Mixsell, David Heitzman and Bob Thompson. Their consultation and recommendations have been so useful because we are all a team brainstorming ideas to get these cases solved. Nicole Siver has been your most wonderful resource for me as my go to person over the years. She has been invaluable.

Years ago, there were more HITS investigators than there are now. HITS investigators used to facilitate cold case meetings where we reviewed cases with numerous detectives from other agencies. That is a much needed resource that has been lost and needs to be reinstituted. Now is the time to form this HITS Cold Case Team of investigators because of all of the advances in DNA and other new technologies.

My agency is back down to just me assigned to the Cold Cases. I can use the help and guidance of HITS investigators to assist me, because I don't know everything. The more minds looking at a case from different perspectives is what's needed to solve these cases and produce better detectives in every agency within the State. Please find a way to institute this Cold Case Unit in the State of Washington!

Thank you for your time and consideration. You may contact me with any questions at any time after I return from vacation on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

[Jim Scharf](#)

Detective James H. Scharf #1155  
Snohomish County Sheriff's Office  
Major Crimes Unit - Cold Case Team  
3000 Rockefeller Ave. M/S 606  
Everett, WA 98201-4046  
Office: 425-388-3841  
Fax: 425-388-3033

[jim.scharf@snoco.org](mailto:jim.scharf@snoco.org)



OFFICE OF  
GARY SIMPSON

# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-7101 • FAX (360) 337-4923

August 1, 2019

Lindsey Wade  
Senior Investigator, Sexual Assault Kit Initiative  
Criminal Justice Division, Office of the Attorney General  
800 Fifth Ave Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98104

Subject: Washington State Attorney General's Office Cold Case Unit

Dear Ms. Wade,

On behalf of the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, I am in support of the Washington State Attorney General's Office implementation of a statewide cold case unit. The concept of a statewide unit would be a substantial benefit to many law enforcement agencies as we come together for a common purpose such as this.

My agency currently has thirteen cold cases, however current investigations take priority leaving little time to devote to these specific investigations. With new technology and investigative protocols and techniques many previously unsettled cases will be solved and criminals prosecuted.

I recognize the need for a statewide approach to investigating cold cases, as most agencies lack the resources necessary to dedicate full-time investigators to the crucial mission of solving these difficult cold cases. I am certain my agency and the citizens of Kitsap County would benefit greatly from these statewide resources.

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office looks forward to working with the Washington State Attorney General's Office Cold Case Unit in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Simpson".

Gary Simpson  
Sheriff



Hello,

July 25, 2019

As a parent of a child missing for 28 days and later found murdered in a local park, I can stand witness to the importance of a Statewide Cold Case Unit. Without the Tacoma Cold Case Unit and 32 years of work by both Tacoma PD and the Tacoma PD cold Case Unit the murderer of our daughter would still be unsolved.

It is only through a cold case specialist, having the time to research the ever-changing technology field to determine which current methods would apply to a certain case that not only increases the numbers of solved cases, may act somewhat of a deterrent, but most importantly provides the citizens with enhanced safety.

Justice is needed for these cases. These victims and their families need answers and the perpetrator needs to be found, stand trial and serve a sentence.

I realize Cold Case Units are expensive and further realize that not every municipality has the resources to fund one; which is why a statewide system of dedicated professionals to assist local law enforcement is essential. I hope this will become a reality in Washington as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
Pattie Bastian

## ATTACHMENT 3

7/29/2019

To Whom it May Concern:

32 years ago, my only sister Jennifer went on a bike ride. At 13, she was a tomboy who often spent summer afternoons riding her bike. But this time, she never came home. Bloodhounds tracked through the park, but then lost the scent.

The Tacoma Police Department received literally hundreds of tips and the park was closed for 3 days so it could be searched by rescue teams. They found no sign of her until 24 days after Jenni left on her bike ride, when a jogger reported a terrible smell along a portion of the path her was running in Pt. Defiance Park. It was my sister's body.

Although her body had been decomposing for 24 days in the summer heat, forensic teams were able to determine that she had been strangled, sexually assaulted, and placed in a pre-arranged hiding spot. The bathing suit she'd been wearing under her shorts was taken to the lab, where DNA was found on it.

Over the years, the Tacoma Police Department formed a Cold Case Unit, in part out of a desire to solve my sister's case.

In May of last year, my mom and I got the call from Detective Lindsey Wade saying "We have made an arrest in your sister's case." After 32 years, a hit had finally been made and Robert Washburn was arrested for my sister's murder. I am now the mother of a 15 year old daughter – Sophia is the same age I was when my sister was murdered.

He originally pled not guilty but changed his plea to guilty and was sentenced in January of this year.

Although my dad died 3 years ago, my mom and I do feel some peace now that we know who killed my sweet sister, and we know that he can never hurt another child.

The tenacity and fine detective work that the Tacoma Police Department's cold case unit brought to my sister's case, and many others, has been outstanding and clearly produces results. But what about crimes that are committed in a smaller town, one that doesn't have a cold case unit? How long will it take for families of those murder victims to learn the truth? How many other crimes are those offenders committing because they have not been held accountable?

Creating a statewide cold case unit at the Attorney General's office would be the most effective way of using limited resources to ensure that no Washington family will wait in vain for justice.

Thank you for your consideration,

Theresa Bastian

## ATTACHMENT 3

To Whom it may concern,

I was a member of the King County Sheriff's Office as a patrolman, detective, and analyst from January of 1971 through 2013. I remain as a volunteer to the KCSO Major Crimes Unit. From 1984 through 1990 I was a detective and analyst on the Green River Task Force. From 1990 to 2001 I was lead detective on the Green River case, as a detective in the Major Crimes Unit. Shortly after that investigation led to an arrest in late 2001, I retired as a police officer and assumed a new role as an administrative analyst in preparation for trial. In mid-2003 I was selected as one of four primary interviewers of Gary Ridgway after he agreed to divulge his secrets. After Ridgway was sentenced to life in prison in 2004, I returned to the Major Crimes Unit and continued in my administrative analyst role on Green River, while also supporting on-going MCU investigations.

In 2009 KCSO received a federal grant to fund a Cold Case Unit. That funding included money for an analyst to assist two detectives. I was selected for that role. A second grant in 2011 extended the KCSO Cold Case Unit through 2013.

Due to the great work of the detectives assigned, the KCSO Cold Case Unit did some very good things in the first two years. That resulted in the second grant to continue that work.

Those very good things would never have been accomplished without the undivided attention of the detectives assigned to our unit.

Most cold cases became cold for a variety of factors. Many of those factors do not exist with the personnel and technology available today. We have better, more committed people working these cases, and they have tools that were not available to detectives years ago.

Before HITS was initiated, there was little or no communication between police agencies in Washington, except via VICAP. HITS gave police agencies in Washington the ability to communicate beyond county and city boundaries.

Yet, there are still hundreds of unsolved murders throughout Washington. Families of these victims grieve their losses daily.

Killers know no boundaries. They don't know a city or county line from a line in the sand.

Nor should investigative efforts to find these killers. The killers can still be made to answer.

The recent work that identified the killers of the girls at Point Defiance Park, and the killer of the Canadian kids are prime examples of what might be accomplished with the effort and manpower available by dedicating good detectives, and new technology to cold cases.

Why is this not done?

## ATTACHMENT 3

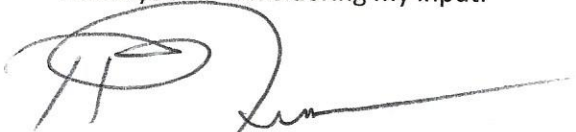
It comes down to the availability of personnel, and time. I can speak best to practices at KCSO, where Detectives, assigned to individual homicide cases, are also burdened with assaults and robberies. In smaller agencies detectives may also have responsibility for property crimes of burglary and larceny.

Detectives today barely have time to manage a current case load. Let alone assume cold homicide cases. The only way to attack and manage cold homicide cases is to devote detectives only to those cases full time.

The concept that a state agency would take responsibility for (some) cold cases might be difficult to accept for some larger police departments. I believe that HITS has the right personnel in place at this time to overcome that objection.

I am proud to have been part of, and present to witness, what law enforcement has accomplished by staying in touch with advancing technologies over the years. The idea of bringing together the best minds in criminal investigation across the state to help solve decades old cases is, in my opinion, the best way of bringing answers to families who have lost loved ones.

Thank you for considering my input.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tom Jensen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas R. (Tom) Jensen  
King County S.O. Ret.

## ATTACHMENT 3

July 31, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of the formation of a Cold Case Unit in the Washington State Attorney General's Office. I have been the manager of the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit for over 7 years. Since taking over the MUPU it was immediately apparent that the number of unsolved unidentified human remains and missing persons cases is extremely high. At this time there are over 170 unidentified remains entries and 261 missing persons cases older than 1990 in the state system. In reading through some of the cases it's obvious the possibility of newly available biometric data could assist in these cases.

Many of the cases of unidentified human remains are from the late 1970's and 1980's at a time when DNA was not available. With the technology available today it's my belief that many of these cases, with the right attention by the right team of people can be solved. Law enforcement agencies, in general, in Washington are low staffed and low in available resources. Cold cases often take a back burner to cases of an immediate nature and also investigators with some smaller agencies are not aware of the resources available to them. The state MUPU has reached out on several occasions to offer case review and/or training on available biometric systems and we have experienced great interest.

The WSP MUPU is comprised of myself and three staff and while we are the state Missing Persons Clearinghouse, we are also the repository for all dental information related to missing and unidentified persons. As with the understaffed law enforcement agencies we are not able to even scratch the surface in helping with these cold cases and have seen the need for a dedicated group to address these issues.

As mentioned, the WSP MUPU is the repository for all dental information by state RCW and are often contacted for information on cold missing and unidentified cases. Some of our dental records date back to the 1970's and at times our files may contain information the local agencies have long lost or filed in archives.

With that I believe that the formation of a Cold Case Unit in Washington State would be an enormous boost in the states ability to solve these long-standing cases and bring to justice any suspects in the outstanding homicide or missing person cases.

Carri Gordon, Program Manager Washington State Patrol Missing Persons Unit

360-280-0403, [carri.gordon@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:carri.gordon@wsp.wa.gov)