



Media Release



from the
Pima County Sheriff's Department
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Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff of Pima County

Homicide - Update

June 17, 2009

On October 1, 2003, at approximately 12:55 p.m., deputies from the Rincon District responded to a deceased person call in Cienega Creek located near Marsh Station Road. Upon arrival, they found a deceased female with obvious head trauma. The Pima County Sheriff's Homicide Unit responded to investigate the incident. The victim was identified as Maria Thoma (DOB 12/16/51). At that time, the victim's brother, Michael Jonathan Carlson (DOB 06/21/56) was a possible suspect in the homicide, but detectives were unable to place him at the scene.

Prior to the homicide in 2003, Mr. Carlson was arrested in Tarrant County, Texas on charges of Aggravated Robbery with a Firearm. He moved to the Tucson area and was living with his sister shortly before the homicide. In May 2009, while on parole for the charges in Texas, he stole a vehicle and drove to Tucson. A warrant was issued for his arrest for the parole violation out of Texas. It was believed Mr. Carlson had returned to Tucson. Based on an anonymous tip, Mr. Carlson was located on June 16, 2009, at approximately 7:00 p.m., in the 3700 blk. of Trico Road. He was taken into custody without incident.

Through developments, investigative leads, and evidence, Pima County Sheriff Homicide detectives have successfully linked Mr. Carlson to the 2003 murder of Maria Thoma. A disagreement appears to be a possible motive for the homicide. Mr. Carlson has been arrested and booked into the Pima County Adult Detention Center for 1st Degree Murder.

At this time, the investigation continues.

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