

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Peter S. Gilchrist, III**  
District Attorney

**August 31, 2009**

## **Conviction in 1999 cold case murder**

In 1999, Kiawana Grace was found shot to death in her residence. The only eyewitness, the victim's 5-year-old son, told Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police that a particular female relative was responsible for the murder. Detectives questioned Mandrey Davis, the victim's boyfriend, shortly after the murder. His story was filled with statements that detectives investigated and found to be false. However, without any evidence to link that relative or Mandrey Davis to the murder, the case went cold. At another time, Davis was caught with a pistol in his possession. Routine lab tests were performed to include test firing the weapon and documenting the unique signature of that weapon. Police learned of this arrest at a later date and compared that gun's signature, which was still on file, to the evidence from Ms. Grace's murder scene. At this time the actual gun had been destroyed, but the comparison revealed that the pistol was the murder weapon. Davis was interviewed again. He maintained his innocence, but changed his story as to several critical details. Even though the weapon in this case, the only evidence, had been previously destroyed, the State proceeded with the prosecution. On August 27, 2009, Davis pled guilty and Superior Court Judge Yvonne Mims Evans sentenced Davis to 151-191 months in prison.

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