



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

Sergeant Frank Sousa
Public Information Office
(954) 828-6433
FSousa@fortlauderdale.gov

January 18, 2011

**SOLICITATION TO COMMIT
MURDER**

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has arrested Jim Roy Watkins Jr., W/M, 8/13/1951, and a Fort Lauderdale resident. Watkins has been charged with one count of Solicitation to Commit Murder. Investigators discovered that Watkins wanted his brother murdered over a legal dispute concerning their parents' estate. The dispute centered over 20 million dollars that was in civil litigation.

Information was received by Fort Lauderdale Detectives from a reliable and credible witness that Jim had engaged in discussions to have his brother killed. The brother agreed to pay \$20,000 in advance of the killing. Jim further went on to state that he would pay an additional amount between 60 and 80 thousand dollars once the victim was killed.

The alleged "hit man" received a packet from Watkins in late December. The packet contained pictures of the victim, the victim's house, and the victim's vehicle. Additionally, it contained a piece of paper detailing the victim's address and a brochure for a nearby hotel.

The witness then provided the police with the contents of the packet. Several recorded conversations were held describing the murder for hire plot. Detectives initiated an arrest warrant for Watkins and executed it on Friday, January 14, 2011. Watkins was charged and is currently being held without bond.

###