



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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October 31, 2008

HOMICIDE

On April 24, 1972, officers with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department were checking a field in the 2000 Block of West Broward Boulevard for abandoned vehicles. While the officers were in the area, they found a partially decaying body behind some bushes.

Detective John Curcio reopened this case back in 2004 as a cold case review. The original murder case involved the death of an unknown female. The open case had been looked at by a variety of detectives over the decades. In 2004, Detective Curcio with the assistance of Forensic Detective Juan Cabrera, using technologies not available in 1972, scanned the fingerprints taken from the victim's mummified fingers to the FBI prints section for AFIS search in the hopes of identifying the victim and again in 2006. Recently, Detective Curcio was contacted by the FBI Latent fingerprint sections who advised that the unknown victim's fingerprints had been matched to a black female named Mary Lue Kelly born in 1937.

In researching the information it was learned that Kelly had been arrested once in Georgia back in 1966. Detective Curcio was able to obtain the booking information showing a list of the victim's relative's names and was able to make contact with one of her sisters in Wrens Georgia. The sister informed Detective Curcio that Mary Lue Kelly had come to Fort Lauderdale to visit with relatives on her father's side of the family sometime in 1970.

We know that Mary Lue Kelly had relatives in Georgia and was meeting with relatives in Florida. However, we do not know who those relatives may be and we would like to identify them.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Mary Lue Kelly's family is encouraged to contact Detective John Curcio at 954-828-5529 or Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS.

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