



FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES SAKI GRANT

video: <https://youtu.be/L0t3kel2QR4>

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department was awarded the 2018 National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) project grant, a three-year grant awarding \$238,031.00 to pay for additional resources when investigating cold case sexual assaults. The grant funds are also used for the costs of training and equipment, as well as costs associated with the investigation and prosecution of cold case sexual assaults.

This grant was awarded to our agency by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The awarded funds assist in providing resources to test previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits (SAKs) and re-examine cold case sexual assaults, all while utilizing a trauma informed and victim centered approach.

“Bringing closure to victims, especially those of unresolved cold case sexual assaults, is a top priority of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. The awarded funds have already greatly assisted our detectives by making dedicated resources available to re-examine and close cold case sexual assaults. We are committed to our community and want each survivor of any of our cold case sexual assaults to know they have not been forgotten, and we are here for them. Our goal, is to have all untested sexual assault evidence kits tested, unless the case is deemed unfounded by Florida State Statute 943.326 and FDLE guidelines, and their associated case details reviewed for the potential of prosecution”-Fort Lauderdale Police Department Police Chief Patrick Lynn.

Upon receiving this grant, detectives assigned to the Fort Lauderdale Police Department Special Victims Unit began reviewing approximately 271 untested sexual assault kits dating as far back as the early 1980s. Approximately 140 of those unsubmitted SAKs were selected for testing utilizing funds from this grant. BODE Technologies was selected as the private laboratory to process the SAKs DNA evidence. The Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office (PBSO) lab conducted the technical reviews and Combined DNA Information System (CODIS) entries. Of the sexual assault kits sent, 65 male DNA profiles were identified and entered into CODIS. As a result of the lab examinations, 43 of those yielded CODIS hits. The cold case sexual assaults associated with those kits were re-opened for additional review and further investigation.

To date, because of this initiative, three of the tested cold case sexual assaults have resulted in arrests. The details of these cases are below.



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- **OR# 99-032485-** The defendant identified in this case is Joel Tiller, B/M, DOB 12/28/51, AKA Jay Taylor, Jason Taylor. Tiller was incarcerated for an unrelated offense and has a history of sexual assaults and homicides. Tiller has been linked to a homicide in Fort Lauderdale (OR# 99-123534) and a homicide in Atlanta. The victim in this case was 18 years old at the time of the sexual assault. She got lost in the downtown area and was making a telephone call when Tiller attacked her and forced her into a structure where he strangled and repeatedly raped her. As a result of this investigation, Tiller was charged with one count of sexual battery with great force. The victim's identification will not be released.
- **OR# 99-123534-** The defendant identified in this case is Jose Luis Burgos, W/M, DOB 2/13/79. The victim in this case was 49 years old at the time of crime and the suspect was 19 years old. While the victim was walking home from a local bar, the suspect approached her and attempted to initiate a conversation. The victim, frightened and unsure of how to respond, continued walking. The suspect pulled her into an alley, strangled her with her shoelaces and sexually battered her. When officers found her, her shoelaces were still tied around her wrists. As a result of this investigation, Burgos, a documented career offender, was taken into custody in Puerto Rico and charged with one count of sexual battery with great force. The victim's identification will not be released.
- **OR# 10-049570-** The defendant identified in this case is David Seals, B/M, DOB 11/08/1961. The victim in this incident was 23 years old at the time of the offense. The victim became separated from her friends at a convenience store. Two unidentified females asked her if she needed a ride and she accepted. The unidentified females told the victim that they needed to stop to pick something up from a residence. When the victim walked inside the home, she was surrounded by three Black males who took turns raping her for several hours as she was in and out of consciousness. Police became aware of the incident after another unknown male walked in, saw what was happening, and decided to help her. Seals, who is currently incarcerated at the Broward Sheriff's Office Jail for an unrelated offense, was charged with one count of sexual battery. The victim's identification will not be released.

If you, or someone you know, is a sexual assault survivor and are seeking an update on your case, please contact our team of victim advocates at (954) 828-6955 or by email at survivors@fortlauderdale.gov. For information regarding the Fort Lauderdale Police



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Department's Victim Advocate Services please visit our website at <https://www.flpd.org/community/victim-services>. We have also created a link to the Nancy J. Cotterman Center (NJCC), which is Broward County's certified sexual assault center. NJCC offers an assortment of helpful resources for survivors of sexual assault which includes a 24-hour crisis intervention hot line, (954) 761-RAPE (7273). For more information about NJCC please visit, <https://www.broward.org/NancyJCottermanCenter/Pages/Default.aspx>.

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