

Bristol County District Attorney's Office
C. Samuel Sutter
District Attorney

Press Release
April 3, 2009

District Attorney Sam Sutter announced that Derek Hunt, 37, of 10 Salisbury St., New Bedford, who was indicted last week for the previously unsolved 2003 murder of 41-year-old Joseph Downing, was ordered **held without bail** during his arraignment this morning in New Bedford Superior Court.

During this morning's arraignment, Assistant District Attorney Dennis Collins told the court that at approximately 10 p.m. on May 3, 2003, at 100 Crossroads Drive, Dartmouth, Mr. Hunt allegedly shot and killed Mr. Downing. Mr. Downing was shot twice to the right side of his head while in the driver's seat of his cargo van. The autopsy and ballistic evidence show that Mr. Downing was shot from within the van at close range.

Assistant District Attorney Collins went on to say that after the shooting, Mr. Hunt allegedly made a series of admissions to various witnesses. Collins continued, informing the court that these witnesses recently came forward during the course of a several week long grand jury investigation. Upon learning of the grand jury investigation, Collins alleged that Mr. Hunt fled to Virginia to avoid prosecution on these charges.

Mr. Hunt was indicted by a Bristol County Grand Jury last Friday on charges of murder and carrying an illegal firearm. Mr. Hunt is due back in court for a pretrial hearing on April 27.

Mr. Hunt was taken into custody by members of the U.S. Marshals Service in Petersburg, Virginia, on March 24. At that time, he was arrested on unrelated outstanding warrant charges.

Mr. Downing, a Dartmouth resident, was employed at the time of his murder by Glaser Glass in New Bedford and was also an antiquity dealer. He was a married father of two children.

District Attorney Sam Sutter's First Assistant, William McCauley, spearheaded the

investigation into the previously unsolved murder of Mr. Downing. Mr. McCauley heads up District Attorney Sutter's Unsolved Homicide Unit and oversees all homicide investigations in Bristol County. The nearly six year old homicide case was investigated recently by Trooper Scott Flaherty of District Attorney Sutter's State Police Detective Unit and Detective George Perry of Dartmouth Police. The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Dennis Collins, who is the newest members of District Attorney Sutter's Homicide Unit.

This is the sixth time District Attorney Sutter's office has brought murder charges in previously unsolved homicide cases during his first 27 months in office.

To continue the progress being made on solving previously unsolved homicides, District Attorney Sutter has established an anonymous unsolved homicide tip line and a web site devoted to many of Bristol County's unsolved homicides. Citizens can call the tip line by dialing 1-866-SOLVE-07. The unsolved homicide web site, which includes photos of the victims and a synopsis of their cases, can be found by logging on to www.bristolda.com/DA/Unsolved_Homicides.htm.

Contacts:

Gregg Miliote

Director of Communications

508-997-0711

774-292-9576---after hours

Lisa Rowell

Media Assistant

508-997-0711

508-326-2217---after hours