

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

Press Release
April 1, 2010

For the eighth time in just over three years in office, District Attorney Sam Sutter today announced that his office has brought charges in an unsolved cold case homicide from a previous administration.

The Bristol County Grand Jury today returned an indictment charging Louis Bizzarro, 24, formerly of 208 State St., New Bedford with the December 1, 2002 murder of 34-year-old Albert "Rocky" Lopes.

Mr. Bizzarro, who is currently serving a 12 to 14 year state prison sentence for a 2005 illegal firearm case out of New Bedford, will be arraigned in New Bedford Superior Court on the murder charge on a date yet to be determined by the court.

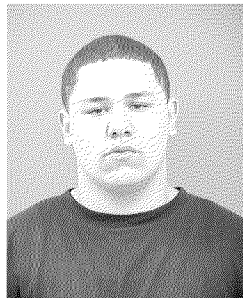
During the early morning hours of December 1, 2002, New Bedford Police were called to 94 Griffin Court in regards to a fight and shots fired. Upon arrival at the scene, state and local police learned that Mr. Lopes and a friend were involved in a fight with another group of males outside 94 Griffin Court. The fight ended when one of the males pulled out a handgun and fired multiple shots at Mr. Lopes.

Mr. Lopes was rushed to St. Luke's Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries later that same morning.

District Attorney Sutter's First Assistant, William McCauley, spearheaded the investigation into the previously unsolved murder of Mr. Lopes ever since District Attorney Sutter took office in January of 2007. McCauley heads up District Attorney Sutter's Unsolved Homicides Unit and oversees all homicide investigations in Bristol County. He was assisted by Assistant District Attorney Dennis Collins, who will be prosecuting the case.

The nearly eight year old homicide case was investigated recently by State Trooper Anne Marie Robinson of District Attorney Sutter's State Police Unit and Detective Andrew Simmons of the New Bedford Police Department.

"As always, my first thoughts are with the victim's family and I am very pleased we have brought some relief to them with this indictment," District Attorney Sutter said. "I am also pleased that we have now brought charges in eight previously unsolved homicides, but I would like the people of Bristol County to know that we will not rest on this achievement, and will continue with this initiative to bring justice to families in these cases."



District Attorney Sutter campaigned in 2006 on a promise to focus much more attention on Bristol County's approximately 75 unsolved homicides from 1991 through 2006 and some others from the 1970s and 1980s.

District Attorney Sutter, who often calls unsolved homicides an "open wound for victims' families and the communities," has made solving "cold cases" a priority at the Bristol County District Attorney's Office.

The Lopes homicide case went unsolved for more than seven years until, in 2007, newly elected District Attorney Sam Sutter's Cold Case Unit re-opened around 100 previously unsolved Bristol County homicides from the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s. During his first three years in office, Sutter's Cold Case Unit has now brought charges in eight previously unsolved homicides from prior administrations. Two of those seven cases have now gone to trial, both of which resulted in first degree murder convictions.

The seven other Cold Cases solved during District Attorney Sutter's first 3 ¼ years in office include:

--- Robert Roy was charged in October of 2007 with the March 1986 slaying of his estranged wife Marni Larkin-Roy in Dartmouth. He has since been convicted of First Degree murder and is serving a life state prison sentence without the possibility of parole.

--- Fagbemi Miranda was charged in March of 2008 with the October 2005 shooting murder of Christopher Barros in New Bedford.

---Jermaine Holley was charged in June of 2007 with the April 2005 stabbing murder of Suzy Goulart in Fall River.

--- Derek Woollam was charged in March of 2007 with the July 2006 shooting murder of John Oliveira Jr. in Swansea. He has since been convicted of First Degree murder and is serving a life state prison sentence without the possibility of parole.

--- Shawn M. Hunt and Jonathan Michael Pittman were charged in January of 2009 with the November 2003 drive by shooting murder of Alberto "Tito" Gonzalez in New Bedford. A third man, Cory Hubbard, was also charged in January of 2009 with being an accessory to Mr. Gonzalez's murder after the fact.

--- Derek Hunt was charged in March of 2009 with the May 2003 shooting murder of Joseph Downing in Dartmouth. A second man, Deutra Haith-Gamboa, was indicted in June 2009 on a charge of being an accessory to the Downing murder.

--- John Burgos Jr. was charged in June of 2009 with the July 2005 shooting murder of Dana Haywood in New Bedford.

To continue the progress being made on solving previously unsolved homicides, District Attorney Sutter has also established an anonymous unsolved homicide tip line and a web site devoted to some 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.