

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

**Press Release
March 30, 2009**

Bristol County District Attorney Sam Sutter announced today that Derek Hunt, 37, of 10 Salisbury St., New Bedford, has been indicted by a Bristol County Grand Jury for the previously unsolved 2003 murder of 41-year-old Joseph Downing in Dartmouth.

On May 3, 2003, Dartmouth Police received a call regarding an apparent shooting at 100 Cross Road in Dartmouth. When state and local police arrived at the scene, Mr. Downing was found shot to death inside his van, which was still running. An ensuing investigation revealed Mr. Downing had been shot twice in the right side of his head from close range.

Mr. Hunt was indicted by the Grand Jury late Friday afternoon and the indictment was officially recorded with the Superior Court Criminal Clerk's Office this morning. Mr. Hunt was indicted on one count of murder and one count of carrying an illegal firearm. He will be arraigned on the charges in New Bedford Superior Court sometime in April.

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. He was questioned by District Attorney Sutter's State Police Unit in Virginia and was transported back to Bristol County. On March 25, he was arraigned in New Bedford District Court on the outstanding warrant charges. He was ordered detained on \$5,000 cash bail during that arraignment, but now will be unable to post any bail as a warrant charging him with Mr. Downing's murder has been lodged against him.

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 Sutter's First Assistant, William McCauley, spearheaded the investigation into the previously unsolved murder of Mr. Downing ever since District Attorney Sutter took office in January of 2007. 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.

District Attorney Sutter campaigned in 2006 on a promise to focus more attention on the approximately 75 Bristol County 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 families and communities," has made solving "cold cases" a priority at the district attorney's office. Today's announcement marks the sixth time during District Attorney Sutter's first 27 months in office that he has announced new murder charges in previously unsolved homicide cases.

Those cases include:

--- Robert Roy was charged in October of 2007 with the March 1986 slaying of his estranged wife Marni Larkin-Roy in Dartmouth.

--- 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.

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.

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