



**For Immediate Release:** 06.15.06

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### **Family Offers Reward to Help Catch Professor's Murderer**

With the one year anniversary of the brutal murder of University of Illinois Chicago professor Peter D'Agostino approaching, the family is offering a \$25,000 cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual who committed the crime.

D'Agostino's widow, Mary Mapes, flanked by Oak Park Police, announced the reward at a news conference today in hopes of refocusing public attention on helping find the murderer. Oak Park Police also have set up a dedicated telephone number for tips – 708.358.5403.

"Peter's family would like to take this opportunity to express their most sincere gratitude and appreciation to Chief Rick Tanksley, Deputy Chief Robert Scianna and all the detectives and police officers of the Oak Park Police Department for their efforts to find Peter's killer," Ms. Mapes said.

"Under the guidance of Chief Tanksley and the Oak Park Police Department, and to advance this investigation on the eve of the first anniversary of Peter's murder, Peter's family is offering a cash reward of \$25,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator of this horrible crime."

Oak Park Police Chief Rick C. Tanksley said his department welcomes any and all efforts of the family to reignite public awareness of the crime.

"In today's wired world it often takes an extraordinary effort such as a reward to break through the information clutter, get individuals to focus on a single incident and perhaps generate a new lead that could help us solve this crime and bring closure to the family," he said.

On June 22 of last year, D'Agostino, 42, was attacked on the 1100 block South Harvey Avenue at about 5:30 p.m. just blocks from his home. He later died from blunt force trauma to the head. Police have since investigated hundreds of leads and searched for a person of interest believed to have been in the area at the time of the crime.

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D'Agostino  
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"The Oak Park Police Department has worked tirelessly on this case. It was a terrible crime and we want to bring the perpetrator to justice and provide at least a measure of closure to the family. We will not rest until the case is closed. Right now we need the public's help. If a reward is what it takes, then we are fortunate that the family has the means to make that possible."

Police say they still hope to question the person of interest who was seen in the vicinity of the crime. The individual was described as an African American male with medium complexion in his mid 20's to mid-30's, five-feet-10 inches to six-feet-two inches tall and thin to medium build. He was believed to have been driving a mid-sized, older model passenger vehicle, turquoise or light blue, with a maroon or dark-colored front passenger side fender. A flyer with a computer-generated image of the individual is posted on the Oak Park Police Department's web page at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us).

Anyone with information is asked to call 708.358.5403.

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