



Re: Investigation related to death of John Connolly of Orange County Florida

April 24, 2008 – Oak Park Police support the offer of a reward for information leading to the arrest of those individuals involved in an aggravated battery last year that led to the death of the victim several months later.

John Connolly, 71, was assaulted on Oak Park's north side in late April of last year while in town visiting relatives. About three months later, on July 30, while swimming in a pool at his home in Orange County, Florida, Connolly, a medical doctor, apparently lost consciousness and drowned. The local medical examiner ruled that Connolly lost consciousness as a result of injuries sustained in the assault, later ruling his death a homicide.

Connolly's family announced today they are offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the assailants.

The assault occurred at about 11:15 a.m., on Thurs., April 26, 2007, as Connolly was walking on the sidewalk by Saint Giles Church in the 1000 block of Linden Avenue, near Oak Park Avenue and North Avenue.

According to Connolly following the incident, three males approached him from behind, struck him in the back of the head and knocked him to the ground. While on the ground, he said he was struck again.

When witnesses yelled at the offenders, they entered a vehicle parked nearby and drove south on Linden to Division Street, turning east and out of view. Witness accounts described the offenders as three African-American males, in their late teens or early twenties, one very tall, possibly six-feet-three inches, to six-feet-five inches tall. The vehicle was described as a white or light-colored minivan, possibly a mid-to-late-1980s Dodge or Chrysler, with wood grain panels along the sides, and with an Illinois license plate.

At the time of the incident, there was no indication of serious injury or a desire of the victim for medical treatment. Oak Park Police were officially notified of the Orange County Medical Examiner's findings in early February of this year.

Oak Park Police have been in contact with other law enforcements agencies since the original crime occurred last year, sharing information on the assailants and the vehicle as part of an ongoing regional investigation.

Anyone with information related to the crime is asked to call the Oak Park Police Department at 708.358.5403. Callers may remain anonymous. Anonymous tips also can be left on a voice recorder at 708.434.1636 or submitted online at www.oak-park.us/police.

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