

District Attorney Scott D. McNamara announced today that the Oneida County District Attorney's Conviction Integrity Review Panel recently concluded its review of the 1995 conviction of Michael Brown, 45, of Utica. Brown was tried and convicted of second degree murder for the November 9, 1993, death of 75-year-old Carmella Mastrangelo. Ms. Mastrangelo was found beaten to death at her apartment in the Six Nations apartment complex in Utica, New York.

The panel was created in 2013 to review past convictions in light of recent advances in technology and police investigative techniques. Member of the panel include prosecutors, police officers and a civilian non-law enforcement individual.

In early 2013, attorneys for Michael Brown contacted the district attorney's office claiming Brown was wrongfully convicted and alleged that evidence collected at the crime scene would exonerate their client. To support their claim, the attorneys requested that some of the evidence found at the original crime scene be re-examined using the latest DNA technology. DNA analysis was not widely available at the time of homicide. The Conviction Integrity Review Panel reviewed the case, the new allegation and thereafter concluded that in the interest of justice further testing of such evidence was necessary and appropriate.

On August 1, 2014, the New York State Police Crime Laboratory forwarded its findings to the Oneida County District Attorney's office. The new tests conducted indicate that an examination of the jacket taken from defendant ten days after the homicide of Ms. Mastrangelo contains a DNA profile that is consistent with the known DNA of the Carmella Mastrangelo. The report states that the probability of selecting an unrelated individual with a profile matching Carmella Mastrangelo's is less than one in 300 billion.

In addition, the report indicates that the DNA profile of fingernail clipping found near Ms. Mastrangelo's body was consistent with the DNA of defendant Michael Brown. The probability of selecting an unrelated individual with a profile matching defendant Michael Brown's is less than one in 300 billion, the report concluded.

For the purposes of background in this case on November 9, 1993, 75-year-old Carmella Mastrangelo was found beaten to death in her apartment at Six Nations Apartment in Utica. During the investigation that followed, Utica Police forensic officers observed and collected a portion of a fingernail located near the body of Carmella Mastrangelo. Ms. Mastrangelo suffered significant injuries and police believed the perpetrator would most likely have Ms. Mastrangelo's blood on his clothing worn during the beating. Another tenant of the apartment complex identified Michael Brown as the man he had seen wandering around the complex the day of the murder and this witness testified at trial that he saw Brown enter Mastrangelo's apartment about the time of the killing.

Ten days after the Mastrangelo's murder Utica Police were called to a home on South Street in the city of Utica. Upon arrival, police were advised by an elderly woman that she had an

intruder in her home. The police then found 25-year-old Michael Brown asleep in a bedroom at the home. Brown told police he had no idea how he came to be in the home of a person he did not know. He told police he was intoxicated the night before and was looking for the home of a relative in the same area.

During the arrest of Brown for trespass, police recovered his clothing, which included a winter jacket. Investigators also notice during the arrest and processing of Brown that he had an obvious injury to one of his index fingers and that a portion of his fingernail was missing. Brown was interviewed by police and gave a lengthy statement admitting that although he did not know Ms. Mastrangelo, he had entered her apartment in broad daylight and beat her to death.

The results of the recent tests do not support Brown's claim that he was wrongfully convicted. To the contrary, the results of the additional testing conducted corroborate the forensic and scientific evidence relied on by the jury nearly 20 years ago and are consistent with the statement given by Brown to police investigators, McNamara said.