

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT: Sergeant Jay O'Neill 623 930-3076
Officer Tracey Breeden 623 930- 3276

Glendale Police Make Arrest in Cold-Case Homicide

GLENDALE, Ariz. – On June 2, 2000 at approximately 10:15 PM Glendale Police responded to what originally was received as a call of a collision involving a taxi cab in the 6500 block of W. Olive Ave. Upon arrival the driver, who was later identified as 50 year-old Malcolm Gomes, was found outside of his cab. Gomes had been shot and later succumb to his injuries. A subject was seen by witnesses running from the area and a subject matching the same description was involve d in armed car-jacking at 66th Avenue & Olive Ave a short time later. During the subsequent investigation Glendale Police Detectives would determine the crimes were related and committed by the same suspect.

Glendale Police Homicide Detectives actively worked this case and developed several leads, to include recovery of the car-jacking vehicle on July 3, 2000, but were unable to identify a suspect in this case.

In December of 2013 a subject identified as Michael Wayne Bentley, a 32 year old Peoria resident, was arrested by the Peoria Police Department and his fingerprints were obtained as part of the booking process. His fingerprints were entered into a fingerprint database and investigators were alerted that those prints matched latent prints lifted from the recovered car-jacking vehicle from 2000.

Working in conjunction with the Yavapi County Sheriff's Department a Glendale Police Cold-Case Detective was able to develop probable cause for the arrest of Bentley as the suspect in the 2000 homicide.

Bentley was taken into custody at his place of employment in Peoria on Thursday, January 9, 2014 without incident and was booked into the Maricopa County Jail on 1st Degree Murder and Armed Robbery charges.

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**Spanish translation available*

*“The Glendale Police Department’s mission
is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve.”*

*Glendale Police Department
a proud recipient of CALEA National Accreditation since 2000*