

Cold Case Unit Identifies Victim In More Than 20 Year-Old Homicide Case



July 25, 2024 – Port Charlotte, FL

Skeletal remains discovered more than 20 years ago in Charlotte County have been identified thanks to DNA technology.

On January 6, 2002, skeletal remains of an unidentified male were found in the bushes on the side of Zemel Road near the landfill in South Charlotte County. A Bulova watch was recovered with the remains. An autopsy was performed and determined the male was the victim of homicide, but they were not able to establish an identity. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Team, using

DNA technology, were able to identify the victim as Cuban male **Alejandro Narciso Lago** (10/31/57) from Miami Dade County. Alejandro was last seen in Miami on November 17, 2001, and he was reported missing by his mother December 27, 2001.



The Cold Case team is currently conducting background inquiries related to Alejandro and any associates to establish his habits and probable activities. Cold Case Detectives recently traveled to Miami and met with missing persons detectives to gain additional background information on Alejandro and his associates.

At this time, the team has found no information as to why Lago was in the Charlotte/Lee County area.

“Despite it being more than 20 years, my Missing Persons detectives continued to work on this case and used every resource possible to determine Mr. Lago’s whereabouts. Sadly, the outcome was tragic. We send our deepest condolences and look forward to collaborating with

the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office to help provide the necessary answers and bring some much-needed closure to his family and loved ones."

– Director Stephanie V. Daniels, Miami-Dade Police Department

Prior to identifying Lago, the team received a tip that late in 2001 some local males from Punta Gorda had been involved in a physical altercation with a male in South Charlotte County near Richmond Street and Highway 41. The tipster stated the males killed the individual and dumped his body. The team continues to work this lead but are not certain how legitimate this information is or if it pertains to the case in question.

Zemel Road is near the Charlotte/Lee County line and has been used in the past to dump bodies of those that died in the Fort Myers area.

"Identifying the victim is a major step toward bringing closure to his loved ones, but there is still a lot of work to be done in this investigation. Finding out why he was in our county could be crucial to finding his killer and bringing them to justice. If anyone has any information, even the tiniest detail can be a critical piece of evidence. I know that my Cold Case team is the best in the field and they will follow every actionable lead to the end."

– Sheriff Bill Prummell

The Cold Case Detectives request anyone with information about this crime or the victim to please contact them. They can be reached via the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office non-emergency number (941) 639-2101.