

## UNSOLVED WITH STEVE GREGORY EPISODE 208

### TRANSCRIPT

#### SEGMENT 1

Announcer

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere on the iHeartRadio app.

Steve Gregory

On any given day in Southern California, hundreds of investigators are working more than 10,000 unsolved cases. That's 1000s of friends and families who have lost loved ones, 1000s of people who got away with a crime, and 1000s of murderers who still walk the streets, killers who may be your neighbor, go to your church, or could be dating a close friend. For the next two hours, we'll highlight cases that have gotten cold baffled investigators or just need that one witness to speak out. This is Unsolved with Steve Gregory.

In 2005, a 17 year old boy was showing off his bedroom in a video it was also a makeshift studio where he worked on his music. The video was part of a high school project.

Just a few years later, that boy would go on to sell some of his music to hip hop legend Ice Cube and his parents say singers Rihanna and Britney Spears were also interested in working with him. But that would never happen. That young man would be shot to death outside of the very studio where his career was about to take off. This is the case of Kevin Robert Harris II. And joining us now from the FBI field office in Los Angeles is Agent Shawn Stirley. He's a case agent on the shooting death of Kevin Robert Harris the second This happened in 2009. Agent, thank you for joining us. Appreciate it.

Special Agent Stirley

Thank you very much for having me. Really appreciate it.

Steve Gregory

So agent, I gotta go back. First of all, let's start with an overview of the case. Tell us tell us what you know.

Special Agent Stirley

Well, on, it was a Sunday night, September 20 2009, approximately 8pm at 3317 West 118th place in Inglewood, California. Kevin Harris, the second pulled up at that address to go to go to the studio there

was you know, it was a residential neighborhood converted garage that they had made into a studio. And a lot of you know, rappers singers and producing music producers would go in there and work. So he showed up there at eight o'clock to do a session. And before he was able to even get his car out of reverse. While parking it another dark colored sedan pulled up next to him very close to him within probably about six inches from him. And you know, I'd be 10 between 10 and 20. Shots were fired. And, and Kevin was killed and died there that night.

Steve Gregory

When there's that much gunfire based on your experience agent, that many shots at one individual. Is that an indicator of something?

Special Agent Stirley

Yes, for sure. I mean, it based on my experience, you know, when you've got that many shots, it's usually something something personal is involved. Right. Usually, in you know, I've worked gangs and violent crime for you know, 20 of my 24 years in the FBI. And when when it when it has to do with you know, overkill, shall we say? It usually has some sort of personal personal relation to between the two between the victim and the suspect.

Steve Gregory

Well, and this happened in Inglewood. So how did the FBI get involved in this and why?

Special Agent Stirley

Well in the FBI and Inglewood police department have traditionally always had a very good relationship through Task Force, gang task force and things like that. And in 2000 You know, 2013, I came back from FBI headquarters after being a supervisor there, and the deputy chief there at Inglewood asked if I would take a look at this case that had you know, at that time was was four years, four years old, but had always just really bothered the department that it wasn't wasn't solved. And, you know, we were able to through the I think it was the the Violent Crime Act of 2012, which, when Congress, you know, voted that into legislation, the that kind of gave permission to federal agencies to provide help for smaller local agencies in investigating crimes.

Steve Gregory

No, no, I'm just saying, I am glad you explained that, because I was wondering is that was that common for a federal agency? Just to kind of help out like that, without it being a formal big deal, formal investigation, Task Force kind of thing? Or do you just yeah, not

Special Agent Stirley

definitely wasn't definitely it, at least in my experience here in Southern California, and I haven't heard of it, you know, for many of my colleagues around the country, that that was a very common place. Yeah. But that 2012 Violent Crime Act really kind of opened that up to, you know, the possibilities of assisting, but be, you know, not just, you know, because the FBI would always send things to the lab back to Quantico say, you know, whether it was DNA, or fingerprints or tire tracks or whatnot, like, things like that. And that kind of assisting role but the violent crime act kind of, you know, opened the doors to being able to investigate, you know, become, you know, on the ground investigators with the local homicide detectives,

Steve Gregory

we're talking with Agent Sean Stirley with the FBI, about the case of Kevin Robert Harris II he was shot and killed on September 20th 2009. This relationship between the feds and the locals is kind of interesting to me, because it's like, it always seems every law enforcement agency, whether it's federal, regional, state, local, is always understaffed and underfunded. So how, how do you determine if you've got the time to help out a tiny department like Inglewood?

Special Agent Stirley

You know, it's, uh, yeah, it's funny. I mean, there is definitely no set formula that, you know, that goes into play there. I think a lot, you know, what it comes down to it, it based on my experience is a lot of interpersonal relationships and things that, you know, you know, whether it's been with Inglewood PD, or the Los Angeles Police Department, which I've worked has primarily worked task forces with over the last 24 years. You know, it's the relationships you form. For me, you know, 20 plus years ago working with somebody who's now a captain or a deputy chief or something like that. And if there's a case that, you know, has a particular I don't know what you'd call it, just there's something special about it.

Steve Gregory

Yeah, no, no, something, you know, I get it. And it's something that might be of interest or something that maybe you know, you can help with, maybe there's a resource with the FBI that maybe the Inglewood PD doesn't have,

Special Agent Stirley

Especially, I mean, LAPD is, you know, you know, great law enforcement agency with, you know, tons of resources, your smaller departments such as Inglewood. You know, they're not going to have, you know, the, you know, the I, I'm trying to think off the top of my head, I'm guessing they probably have 250 agents were LAPD, you know, on the low end, right, you know, right now probably have 9000. And so

they're just, they're not going to have their own lab. They're not right, you know, and all those kinds of things. They're not going to have their own, you know, aerial surveillance units, etc. And those are the things that the FBI can bring to a smaller department like Inglewood that they can you know, that LAPD in many instances doesn't even need because they've got they've got it handled themselves.

Steve Gregory

So because of your friendship with a command level person in Inglewood, you were able to take a look at this file and in what was your initial assessment?

Special Agent Stirley

You know, initially, you know, I look, I looked at it, and I thought, I think, I mean, it's solvable. I mean, the, you know, during the time in 2009, when this, you know, when Kevin was shot to death, you know, there was a rash of shootings in Inglewood, and I think it just like in murders. And I know when a smaller department gets swamped with, you know, large number of, you know, murders or, you know, robberies or whatever it is, they just don't have the personnel to be able to work them all. You know, me, how shall I say this work them all, you know, as well as they would if Yeah, that was the only case they had to worry about. Right. Yeah. I mean, it is what it is. I mean, that's just the reality of, of law enforcement and in the way things are, so, I mean, they did they Did it they did a good job in a lot of aspects. But the main thing is, in cold cases that I've learned on my experiences is they're solved by two things primarily

Steve Gregory

and, and I want you to hold on that I want to know those two things, but first we got to take a break. We're gonna come back we're gonna talk more with FBI agent Sean Stirley, about the death of Kevin Robert Harris. But first this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.

## **SEGMENT 2**

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory. And this is Unsolved. For more on this case, head over to our website at [KFIAM640.com](http://KFIAM640.com) keyword "unsolved". We're talking with FBI agent Sean Stirley. He's the case agent for the shooting death of Kevin Robert Harris II. It happened September 20, 2009, he picked up the case a few years after it happened. And that was as a favor to the Inglewood Police Department. And before the break agent, you were about to tell us, in your opinion, the two big things to consider when approaching a cold case. So what were they?

Special Agent Stirley

So when we started looking at Kevin's murder, you know, the two things that I found, and, you know, I think every Cold Case investigator has found is that the two most prominent things that will improve your success of solving it are one changes in relationship or relationships, and two changes in technology. So as you get further away from the date of the murder, you know, people are going to have falling outs, you know, some people are going to go to prison, some people are going to move away that might not have, you know, we're a little bit scared to you know, to speak up as a witness in these crimes. And now they've may be moved out of state or something's taken into you know, jobs taking them somewhere, it's a big difference, if you live down the street from your suspected shooter, or, you know, you live 2000 miles away. So a lot of times those changes in relationships are going to provide you with clues that, you know, the original investigators at the time of the murder never had. The other thing is changes in technology, I mean is, you know, kind of an old guy, but you know, the leaps and bounds of every new Apple phone, every new, you know, tablet or whatever that comes out. Computer that comes out is just, you know, crazy. They it seems like they jumped lightyears every three, four months. So as far as the abilities and the technologies that's been developed by, say, the Quantico lab to extract information from devices such as, such as a victim's phone, you know, those those things have gone up so much. And in this case, that was a big, that was a big plus for us is we were able to get into Kevin's phone a lot deeper than they were, you know, in by the time we got, you know, the the lab took a look at that. I think it was 2015. So it's six years of technology upgrades. So we were able to look and get into his phone much, much deeper than the original guys were back in 2009. And that's just not not not not to say anything like the Inglewood. Oh, no, no, no, you know, it's just that's just technology, you know,

Steve Gregory

In a six years? That's a big that's a lot that mean one year? Yeah, it's a big leap. When you when you approach something like that to an agent, do you still have to get a warrant for the phone? And and go through those processes?

Special Agent Stirley

Yeah, exactly. I mean, you know, there's cuz on any search warrant, there is a, you know, an expiration date, if you will, you know, it's got to be executed by a certain time. So even they even if there was a warrant written to examine a phone, say in 2009 Yeah, we definitely, you've got to write a new search warrant to, to go into it again. So, but I mean, at that point, it's, it's, I think, it's usually a pretty solid, probable cause, you know, statement to get in there, just, you know, you'd write to the judge how, you know, just like we talked about how technology has improved so much, and, you know, and then you've got all the, the probable cause from the original search warrant on the victim's phone that was found, you know, in his vehicle when he was shot so it was it was no problem getting the search warrant.

Steve Gregory

Now that's interesting to me too. By the way, we're talking with FBI agent Sean Stirley The case agent for the shooting death of Kevin Robert Harris the second you know, when you look back at the shooting

in the in the amount of rounds that were shot, and no one picked up the phone, and no one tried to do anything to cover the scene or or mask the scene at all. Is that also an indicator of any kind?

Special Agent Stirley

Correct. I mean, that's a that's I mean, a huge indicator to law enforcement that it will the fact that is you know, it's fallen is there his computer, you know, his laptop computer was there with a external hard drive with all of his musical beats, which I mean, there's a whole nother aspect to this. Right, we can get into but I was gonna say like, thing is, if it was a robbery, those things would not be there. Right? The number of shots Yeah, that that's another thing that it's probably a personal personal vendetta, you know, more of an execution, if you will, right? Where they're not interested in making money on it. It's mainly about making sure there was no Kevin Harris. Correct? Correct. Now, if it was a robbery gone bad, you know, they, you know, probably would have shot, you know, even if they shoot him, they shoot him a couple times, tops in that, and then that, you know, they're gonna ransack the car for, you know, whatever they can, the phone was sitting right out in plain view, this laptop and those things would be missing. But the fact that they were there meant that it wasn't a botched robbery.

Steve Gregory

In in something like this, it appears to me just what you're telling me that this had to happen very fast.

Special Agent Stirley

Correct, correct. From from eyewitnesses on the street. That day or that night, I guess it was kind of dusk, it was just getting dark, about eight o'clock. But it was September 20. So it's kind of right in that Twilight area. So Kevin's car pulled up at 3317 West 118 place. And the you know, the one of the one of the one of the people who was on the street said that he just kind of pulled up and sort of like, backed into the, you know, parallel parked on the curb? And was, you know, it was just there for a second, right? Or maybe 10 seconds. And it looks like she the witness thought that that Kevin might have been looking at his phone, okay, you know, just looking at, you know, checking his text or something like that. 10 To 10 You know, you never know, I mean, it's so tough when somebody as a witness experiences a traumatic event, you know, you got to kind of take their time. 10 seconds could be 30 say, Sure, sure. According to this witness, 10 seconds after Kevin had pulled into his parking spot on the curb, not motor running, all that kind of stuff, another dark colored sedan pulled up right next to the car. And the there appeared to this witness that there was an may be an exchange, a verbal exchange, possibly because it wasn't right away that they heard shots. So in the cars were really close. So the passenger, the front passenger door of the suspect car, and the front driver door, you know, where Kevin was, were, you know, the witness said maybe a half foot six inches apart. So if he wanted to get out, he wasn't getting out, you know, like he couldn't even get out of the car. Right? Because of the and also, you know, and it's been, you know, from back then, you know, described and true that Kevin had his window down. So many of his friends said and he, and at the time Kevin had been had expressed concern to his folks and

to a friend that he thought he was, you know, he thought he might be in trouble. So odds are, if he didn't know that person that pulled up next to him, he wouldn't have rolled his window down.

Steve Gregory

We're talking with agent Sean Stirley. When we come back. We'll explore more about that and also want to get into some other aspects of the case, including how important his music was to the industry. But first, this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.

### **SEGMENT 3**

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. This is Unsolved. I'm Steve Gregory. To contact the show with a tip story, idea or comment. You can dial #250 on your cell phone and say the key word "unsolved". That's #250 and the key word "unsolved". We're talking with FBI agent Sean Stirley. From the LA Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation about the shooting death of Kevin Robert Harris II. It happened September 28 2009, in the city of Inglewood. The FBI picked it up a few years later. And we've got Case Agent stirley talking about that night of 2009. Before the break, you were talking about kind of a timeline of when, you know when someone the dark sedan pulled up alongside Kevin's vehicle, how close it was. Now I'm thinking back to Oh, nine, the ring camera really wasn't out yet. How about surveillance footage in the area? Anything that you could use?

Special Agent Stirley

The Yeah, the, you know, the initial crime scene, they, they scoured the neighborhood canvass the neighborhood for video, you know, a home just more home security sections ring really wasn't, you know, round by, you know, your regular security cameras still were they were able to... Inglewood was able to get a couple of them. Couple of security systems, you know, that the people had put up but they didn't work worked a little, you know, or hadn't stopped working. But both the, what, DVRs? Or the right or whatever? Like, I'm I'm sorry, my mind is blinking on the the right. So

Steve Gregory

The older the older recording, correct? Yeah. Bigger, bulkier kind of cameras, and

Special Agent Stirley

Yes. And so those were sent, you know, were examined, and, you know, neither of them were recording on the night of September 9.

Steve Gregory

And was this mostly residential?

Special Agent Stirley

it is very, very much residential, you know, just right off of Crenshaw Boulevard, and, you know, a little north of the 105 freeway, but, you know, quiet residential neighborhood, in the, you know, just had a music studio in a detached garage behind one of the residences. And, you know, the, and the other thing on Sunday night, there were very few, if any, except Kevin, that came on Sunday night, so the owner of the studio usually kept that shut down, like that was the night off. But, you know, Kevin being, from, from what he told me all was, like, really respectful, didn't make a lot of noise didn't cause problems, you know, like, sometimes part of him blocking the neighbor's driveway partially with their kid good kid, right? He was like, the only guy that could that was allowed to come in on Sunday nights, which was another significant, you know, clue, like, you know, that the whoever, whoever shot him knew that he he was the angel. Yeah,

Steve Gregory

Yeah. When you look back at this, I mean, this guy is I was reading a little background on him. He was really up and coming terms of being a music producer and grant writer, I'm looking at, you know, hip hop artist, Ice Cube, Rihanna, Britney Spears, we're all either working with him are interested in working with him. So he was gaining quite a profile. Does his sort of his successful trajectory, does that play into an indicator here?

Special Agent Stirley

It's definitely, you know, that is definitely a strong possibility here as we've as we've looked into this case, you know, I, you know, I not that I knew a whole lot about the the music industry, the rap industry, but I learned a lot over the last several years about it, and he definitely was, as they would say, blown up, I guess, you know, at that time where he was just, you know, he just turned 21 You know, had gotten a placement on Ice Cube's album. Wild West, maybe I think it was urbania I think was the name of the song. He had at least was getting play on some of the radios with the Lady G song "Poppin bottles"; I think it was called so it's like, all of a sudden he became a hot was coming becoming a hot commodity as far as the music world went is making beats for somebody and yeah, they like Rihanna and Britney Spears had expressed interest in in him maybe making some tracks for them,

Steve Gregory

if he'd been characterized in an earlier interview and at least a statement that authorities believe someone very close to Kevin was behind his murder. Is that a proper assessment still?

Special Agent Stirley



Yeah, definitely involved in the murder whether whether they were the trigger pullers, you know what? Yeah, I would say yes.

Steve Gregory

At the very beginning of our chat, you said, when you looked at the case, you said this is solvable? What jumped out at you that made you to make you sick make that statement?

Special Agent Stirley

I think primarily just because it was there. You know, I just knew, you know, going back to the changes in technology, I really thought, what we could get off his phone, the additional stuff, and it got us a lot in we were able to get along. Can

Steve Gregory

you tell us any examples of what you got? That's helpful?

Special Agent Stirley

Yeah. Well, I can I can I can tell you in generalities that there were phone messages between he and another party of, but when he was going to, you know, the other parties, you know, asking, Hey, when are you going to the studio? What time are you going to be there? Let me know when you leave.

Steve Gregory

Kind of giving you a kind of a direction, if you will? So now that you've taken over the case, and you put your fresh eyes on this? Were you able to interview people from back then?

Special Agent Stirley

Oh, I mean, we did? You know, I think I counted. Pretty much I think 70 interviews over 70 interviews, really, I mean, we still I mean, that's the other thing. And you know, retired Los Angeles Police Department, Detective John Skaggs, who's the, you know, famous homicide investigator, when he retired, and I'd worked with him when he was at the LAPD, you know, I was like, Hey, John, can you you know, he helped me on this case. So, you know, he really gave me some great, you know, pointers, and then joined in on the investigation as far as with interviews and things like that, and, you know, his, his theories on things, and it was, it was fantastic. But, so we, we, we started at the, you know, like, like most murder cases, you want to start as close to this, the victim as possible, and then work out. So we just figured, you know, there were, there were interviews done, but at that point had been, you know,

six years, maybe it was 2015, by the time we were able to really get going on investigating the case. And so we just started in his inner circle, and worked his way out, worked our way out and looking for, you know, the changes, you know, changes in relationship changes in technology, right. So, anything, anything that would jump out, and then also, with the technology, the people that were texting with him that night, and things like that, trying to, you know, trying to trying to trying to, you know, without giving given too much look at their inner circle, and see what what relationships had changed with them.

Steve Gregory

So let me ask it to you this way. Based on the the new set of interviews you've done, was there any stark differences in what you were able to glean from these interviews, as opposed to what the initial investigators did?

Special Agent Stirley

Not too much. I mean, we did a lot more, you know, just, like I said, when they were we got hit with a barrage of murders at that time in 2009. And, you know, so we were able to do many more, you know, interview his entire inner circle, and maybe that second circle out, you know, so, but the one thing I, the one thing that we so, you know, the special agent, Ivan Romo, Special Agent, Cody Burke, who assisted me with this on the FBI side, we should just always laugh because like, I don't know, if I've ever dealt with, you know, somebody or interviewed this many people where nobody said anything bad about him. And it was pretty crazy. I mean, like, who it would always say, okay, look, I realize you don't want to speak ill of the dead, but unless you tell us like, who he had beefs with, who you know, did he ever, you know, whatever, you got to tell us the bad stuff, too. Or, we, you know, we'll never, you know, this case will never be solved. So do you got to for Kevin, you got to, you know, if he's, you know, you got to talk about the warts too. Right. And I mean, there. Yeah, none. And I mean, he's, you know, he's a good looking kid. And he had a lot of girlfriends, but I mean, like, you know, every every one of them, you know, was like, yeah, he was one of the nicest guys I ever dated or mad or anything, you know, they wouldn't even say anything bad about him. So when you're looking for something like that, to give you another suspect, like Yeah, you know, he kind of you know, he rip somebody's offering disrespect to somebody here. They're this. You know, you're looking for that extra suspect that maybe wasn't found. For you know just from we couldn't find it because nobody is like was this guy you know, Was he a saint you know it's like it was crazy.

Steve Gregory

When we come back I want to get some final thoughts from you including what your working theory is but first this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for news update

#### **SEGMENT 4**

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory. And this is Unsolved. If you have a comment story idea or a tip on any of the cases we featured on the show, you can simply press the red microphone on the iHeartRadio app, or you can dial #250 on your cell phone and say the key word "unsolved". We're talking with agent Sean Stirley, with the FBI's Los Angeles field office about the shooting death of Kevin Robert Harris II. happened on September 20, 2009. And before the break, Agent, you were talking about the inner circle of Kevin, and sort of you couldn't find anyone to say a bad word about the guy, which you know, is unusual. You said in your in your 20 plus year career, but what about the parents in this? How are they because sometimes some parents are so devastated by this, they don't want to talk about it at all. And then you've got the other parents that just all they want to do is talk about it. How did Kevin's parents play a role in this?

Special Agent Stirley

Yeah, I mean, Kevin's, Kevin's parents are fantastic. They, you know, I tell you what, I would credit, you know, the fact that we couldn't, that Kevin was such a, a well liked and loved young man was because of the way that his parents raised him, you know, Kevin Harris senior and Katherine Harris. I mean, they did a phenomenal job of, of raising him. And, you know, they, you know, made sure he was in Catholic school all the way through grammar school, and high school and all that kind of stuff and trying to keep them from, you know, running with the wrong crowd and everything like that. So, I mean, they really, they did it, they did a, you know, a great job of keeping him, you know, protected. And I mean, it's, it's so, you know, it's heartbreaking that I think he got in with the, you know, maybe possibly the wrong, he didn't get in with the wrong crowd there eventually, you can't, can't protect them forever. And they put they did as good a job as they could I mean, as possible, I would say, and, yeah, they were just phenomenal and very helpful. That was the first, you know, actually, besides the spreads, they were the first person people we talked to, just to get a sense of who, you know, we had to learn who their his top, you know, biggest friends were, our best friends were hence, we were talking to them, you know, initially. And they said, we sat down with I think, I think for three, three plus hours one day, and just, you know, the first time we met him in went through, went through everything. And I know, it was incredibly painful for him, but they were willing to, you know, and continue to be willing to go through the pain to relieve some of this, you know, agony, again, with the hopes of, you know, solving their son's murder.

Steve Gregory

Is there a reward?

Special Agent Stirley

Yes, there is. There is a reward that \$25,000, you know, has been offered by the FBI and Inglewood police department had offered another \$25,000.

Steve Gregory

So there's total \$50,000 In total available for information leading to the arrest, conviction.

Special Agent Stirley

No, you know, just arrest.

Steve Gregory

Okay, good. So that's 50,000 total, out of the 70 plus interviews that you and your colleagues have done on this case, agent. Do you believe you've spoken to the shooter?

Special Agent Stirley

Spoken to the shooter? I don't think so. I think you know, I think the it's possible, it is possible. I think there's I'm gonna say a 5050 chance we've spoken to the shooter. I think there's

Steve Gregory

there are there one or two individuals where your spidey sense got a little more active than others?

Special Agent Stirley

Yeah, yeah, I think well, yes. And I think there was, you know, the working theory right now is the people who set it up. knew where Kevin would be that night. Were not the people that pulled the trigger. So it was a there's some accomplices. Oh, yeah, for sure.

Steve Gregory

And do you believe they're in the business? Or do you believe they're friends? Do you believe their enemies? What do you believe?

Special Agent Stirley

I believe fringe on the business in the business, or we're trying to get into the business. Because you mentioned Fred, friends, her you know what they what they said to Kevin, but I don't think when it came down to brass tacks, they didn't have his best interest in heart.

Steve Gregory

You touched on something though earlier because respect plays a huge, huge role in this really in this culture, correct in this hip hop culture in this music, culture, respect, and something as simple as disrespect can get someone killed, correct? Is that a plausible theory in this case?

Special Agent Stirley

You know, it is a plausible theory. The, you know, because it it's happened, speaking to, you know, investigators from, you know, LAPD, you know, LA County Sheriff's Department Homicide investigators. You know, they're definitely been in the rap game. You know, people just from their lyrics in their songs, you know, if somebody feels disrespected, you know, their ends, ends up being a shooting or retaliation, you know, with violence. So there's no doubt that that that was something we couldn't overlook. And I think, I think that it's probably, probably I think there's, there's probably some of that without you. I'm trying not to give up too much.

Steve Gregory

I was gonna say you're having a really tough time, not being able to tell me what you want to tell me.

Let me just ask you this, because we got to wrap up. So let me ask it this way. Are you agent? Are you closer to solving this case today than you were when you first set eyes on it?

Unknown Speaker

For sure. Yeah. 100% still solvable? Oh, yeah. I mean, you know, we've, you know, from especially when detective Skaggs and I, you know, we're looking at it with the DHS office. I mean, it's, you, we've kind of felt like, you know, it was 85% of the way there, you know, for reaching that threshold. So it's just, you know, we're missing could have been, you know, what I would say is, could have been, could it be filed? Yeah. But it's, it would be weak. I mean, in there's a chance that would

Steve Gregory

just this close. And so when ..

Special Agent Stirley

You don't want to file, you know, you don't want to charge or, one, you want to be sure that you got the right people, you never want to charge somebody incorrectly. That's, that'd be the worst. But the you know, the other thing is, even if you, you know, have the right people, and you charge it before you have enough evidence, they end up kind of screwed, they end up being acquitted. Right. And then you

that evidence a year or two later, you know, comes out somewhere else, like Oh, my God, like you can be trapped on your side. Cool. Yeah.

Steve Gregory

One interesting thing I want to I want to ask you, before we wrap up, what is your definition or the FBI's definition of a cold case?

Special Agent Stirley

I think the you know, I, I'm not sure if there is a I guess I should know this, but I don't know. But there's no additional formula here. No, there really isn't. I mean, you know, I think as a three years, I've, you know, some people have said three years, some people have said five years interest. Um, but I mean, I mean, I would say, you know, it just depends on the case, its case, you know, case by case basis, right. Sometimes, you know, if a case there's no, you know, like, after the first week or so, just nothing else comes up. I mean, she, in my opinion, that could be, you know, considered cold, you know, six, eight months later, right. But if you're going straight by a time frame, I would say three to five years, probably.

Steve Gregory

And what is it you want the public to do? What do you need from the public in this case?

Special Agent Stirley

You know, this, this is, this is one of those things where, I mean, we know there are people that that know, more than we know about what happened the night of September 20 of 2009. They know what happened, who was involved? Who did the shooting? Why, why Kevin was set up. And I mean, we, you know, John Skaggs and I both believe that, you know, there were people that we talked to, that were not giving us the truth. And we're holding back on what they knew happened. But, I mean, like anything, I mean, there have been people, those people who I'm sure have talked to other people, and that's what we need is somebody to come forward and say, hey, you know, what, so and so told me this, you know, told me what they did, or, or something like that, we, and then we can run with it from that point on. And if they want to remain anonymous, they can remain anonymous. You know, not that, you know, like, somebody says, hey, it's points the finger at somebody, and we're just gonna go out and arrest him. It's like, we have to, you know, you have to corroborate, you know, with evidence and all that kind of stuff. So, I mean, yeah, that's, that's what we're, that's what we're hoping for. So we're begging the public to please help us out at this point, because it was a tragic, totally unnecessary killing of a good guy, a really good guy, and it devastated a family. And the parents, you know, Kevin senior and Catherine are, you know, phenomenal people and it just, it's, it's wrecked their lives, you know, I mean, they it's, it's heartbreaking and it keeps us motivated. I mean myself the other agents that have worked on it and detectives to try to try to solve this for them.

Steve Gregory

Appreciate your time very much and let's let's hope this helps shake some trees and I wish you all the success.

Special Agent Stirley

Thank you sir appreciate it.

Steve Gregory

For more on this case go to [KFIAM640.com](http://KFIAM640.com) keyword "unsolved". Coming up, we head out to Riverside for a gruesome case of rape and murder. But first this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KF I am 640 Time now for a news update.

#### **SEGMENT 5**

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory and this is Unsolved. Our next story contains graphic content. This is Riverside County Sheriff's case number A93089013, the sexual assault and murder of Sherri Herrera.

We're joined now by Jason Corey. He's an investigator with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and Mike Thompson. He's also an investigator but he's with the Riverside County District Attorney's office. They both are a part of a cold case unit that's working in Riverside County to solve these cold cases from years ago and we're talking today about one such case 1993 woman found in the desert near an onramp eastbound 10 freeway 50 miles east of Palm Springs. Gentlemen, welcome to the show.

Detective Corey

Hello. Thank you for having us.

Steve Gregory

o Jason, give us an overview of this case.

Detective Corey

So on March 30 of 1993 it just about one o'clock in the afternoon. Some folks just out enjoying trying to enjoy the desert. Just about like I said about 50 miles east of Palm Springs. They found the deceased body of of Sherri Herrera just off of the road off the eastbound on ramp at hay field road and interstate 10. Out there in the in the desert. It was it was hot that day was about the investigators note it was about 80 to 85 degrees with with a slight wind blowing. And these folks just happened upon a very, very gruesome scene and in Sherri was, was strangled to death. And then the investigation picked up from there and they just Sherri was a prostitute in the local area would bounce back and forth between the Coachella Valley. And Blythe I believe to Tulare, all the way all the way up to to Tulare. And then and then anywhere in between. So there was a lot of folks that that the investigators interviewed just in that world, a lot of narcotics different she had pimps, there were folks that that the interview that were would send them to in different directions throughout the entire investigation. And they ended up interviewing several several folks that that they thought were were potential suspects.

Steve Gregory

What kinds of folks?

Detective Corey

with local local people out to out to the desert area. The folks that were local back then not too sure where they're at where they're at now, we I haven't I haven't researched to find out where they are. But known travelers throughout the area known known drug users, there were several different theories that that Sherry hit owed different folks money for, for drugs, different things. So it's, you know, the investigators were taking everything in and just kind of getting spun in different directions at the time.

Steve Gregory

This has got to be complicated to JSON because you're dealing with a prostitute. And that lifestyle lends itself to just multiple contexts in multiple locations. Possible, multiple motives, you know, how do you sift through all of that?

Detective Corey

Well, now I have the luxury of going back. And, and, and we do with with all three of us, we have the luxury of going back and reading everything. And then And then obviously, in cases where we were able to have where we get DNA, we're able to do that, you know, that kind of that helps us out tremendously, because they didn't have that technology back then. So we're able to use that technology now, where we're able to I hate to say shortcut, because we're certainly not shortcutting anything, but we're able to kind of work our way around all that nonsense that you know, those different directions that they were thrown into before with you know, will you know, Sherry Oh, you know, oh, so and so money for dope or Sherri, you know, she crossed so and so so they had her killed, you know, those different directions that they that they were directed in back then. So now with other forensic evidence



that we're able to use, we're able to, you know, be able to peel back those layers and say, Okay, now well, this person is excluded. Now, through forensic evidence, this person is excluded through forensic cabinets. And then and so we're so it makes it easier for us to to utilize those tools to sift through all that and kind of say, okay, hey, this Part is nonsense and and we don't need to really focus on that

Steve Gregory

Was Sherri's body clothed? No. She was she was thinking she was and partially partially partially nude. Yes. From the top or the bottom? Bottom. Okay, so, you see she was strangled. Was she strangled with like a ligature or it was by hand?

Detective Corey

with a ligature ligature, actually, I believe it was both. I believe there was they determine that there was both manual manual strangulation and and the ligature strangulation.

Steve Gregory

And was that that item found nearby?

Detective Corey

Yes, it was yes.

Steve Gregory

That seems unusual. Or is that common? I don't know that it's the ligature near the body. Or it's still on the body. So on the body?

Mike Thompson (Riverside DA's Office)

I don't know, that's all that uncommon,

Steve Gregory

okay. Must be all the TV I watch. Because everyone trying to you know, trying to cover their tracks. So, what does this tell you then, Jason, that you've got a partially clothed woman who's a prostitute near an on ramp? With a ligature still around her neck? What was it exactly?

Detective Corey

I don't recall what the exact what the ligature was exactly. I was in a belt, I would be speculating. I don't remember.

Steve Gregory

So what does that tell you? In terms of possible motive, or, or whether this was a random or not random but spontaneous act or calculated act?

Detective Corey

Well, I think it was probably a spontaneous act, just just the sheer fact that she's, she's out there dumped off to the side of the freeway, in the desert. I mean, that's, however, went we don't when I say that, I mean, it doesn't say, it's not to me that that he could have killed her some elsewhere, and then taken her there, and, and dumped her in that location thinking it was remote enough to, you know, get back on the freeway and, and, and escape. So but I don't think, you know, even in 1993, I don't think folks were even, you know, thinking of forensic evidence and leaving, you know, certain items of evidence, you know, nowadays, I think, you know, obviously, people are a little more understanding of that, and they have, they have a better knowledge of, of, you know, cleaning up a crime scene, and, and, and collecting things that that may may identify them forensically at a later time, I think they're better at cleaning up after themselves now, whereas I think those things that were left behind, because, you know, then they didn't think that those would ever be used to, to potentially identify them.

Steve Gregory

Mike, you know, I know that you use this taskforce uses forensic genealogy. Was that something you were able to employ here?

Mike Thompson (Riverside DA's Office)

We are, we are employing forensic genealogy on this case. The ethnic predictors on forensic genealogy aren't 100% definitive, but our ethnic estimates are that this person is an African American. We have, unfortunately, the genetic matches are quite distant. So we are in the process of trying to build that family tree and identify some people who might be have a closer relationship to our potential suspect.

Steve Gregory

That's, you know, it's fascinating, because you have to have some sort of evidence or whether it's DNA or some sort of a sample, right?

Mike Thompson (Riverside DA's Office)

Correct.

Steve Gregory

And so what were you able to, to get from the scene or from the person, or from the body of Sherri, that helps you with this?

Mike Thompson (Riverside DA's Office)

Well, there's a male DNA profile recovered from the victim?

Steve Gregory

Would this be like bodily fluid type stuff?

Mike Thompson (Riverside DA's Office)

Yes.

Steve Gregory

Okay. And then, and then that's, that was plenty, that was enough to get you started.

Mike Thompson (Riverside DA's Office)

Correct. So back, oh, the mid 1990s. When DNA became very, very common, they they uploaded that profile into codice. And there's no matches and Kotas. But it did lead to a match of another victim in another state.

Steve Gregory

Well, in that doesn't seem too uncommon with the fact that the 10 is probably one of the biggest major thoroughfares, you know, in this part of the country, right?

Detective Corey

Correct. Correct.

Steve Gregory

Was there evidence that you were talking about? Sherry was found in the desert near the on ramp so out in the dirt? And I've seen plenty of that because I've traveled the 10 many times, and we're talking about it back in 1983. Was there a fence of any kind that the person walked out there or did they both walk out there were their footprints how do they get out?

Detective Corey

I don't recall seeing that they that they documented any footprints in the in the area but If she wasn't very far off of off the side of the side of the road and and I don't recall off the top of my head. I know there was significant decomposition, but I'm not exactly sure how long she had been out there at that location.

Steve Gregory

Let's talk more about that. But first this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.

#### **SEGMENT 6**

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory and this is Unsolved. For more on this case and others go to KFIAM640.com keyword "unsolved". We're talking with Mike Thompson and Jason Corey about the 1993 death of Sherri Herrera, a woman who was found in the desert strangled to death 50 miles east of Palm Springs. Actually the eastbound on ramp to Hayfield road. Before the break, guys, we were, I felt like we were getting really deep into the forensics part of this. And I was asking you questions about how Sherrri's body got out to the middle of the desert, you said there was no indication of footprints at this time. But let's go back a little further than Do you have any kind of a timeline, when was Sherri last seen and where

Mike Thompson (Riverside DA's Office)

Sherri was last seen. March 25 1993, at a truckstop, in Tulare, and then she's recovered five days later, with evidence of decomposition on March 30. In a very, you had mentioned that you've driven that stretch of road, you know how once you go east of Palm Springs, you are isolated until you really get up life, that stretch of road, it's not uncommon at all for truck drivers, travelers, our viewers just to pull off the side of the road to take a break, take a nap, etc.

Steve Gregory

Yeah, and then the heat on top of that, that speeds up the decomposition. So was the medical examiner able to estimate how long she'd been dead?

Mike Thompson (Riverside DA's Office)

I don't believe so. Several days days. So I mean, again, going back on March 25, is the last time we know her to be alive. So.

Steve Gregory

So now as a cold case, investigator on this, going back to 1993, last seen at a truckstop? Is that, do you actually now do? There's really no need to go up to that truckstop per se is there, but how do you where do you go from there?

Detective Corey

Well, I think in this case, the the most important thing is the is the forensic genealogy to keep working that angle. And certainly, I mean, that is something that that we we would be, and we don't we don't rule anything out. And we will take a drive and we'll go revisit these areas, look at them just for our own personal, you know, knowledge of these of these areas. So that way, you know we're better educated about about these things, but with the with the the DNA and knowing that it belongs to you know a certain certain well, with with a DNA, we're able to the forensic genealogy would just come into play a little bit a little bit more. So let you know, let those guys work there, you know, use that investigative tool to narrow those down. And then from there, once they have if they can put together a list of people that we can go back out and talk to them, then we'll go we'll go talk to those folks.

Steve Gregory

Have you interviewed anybody? On this case so far?

Mike Thompson (Riverside DA's Office)

No, no, we're we're really trying to work the DNA angle on it. Can we identify who that person is? And then develop that person's profile? What, what takes us person to, to our victim? What takes us to the other victim? Is there a nexus between them? And where's our suspect living? What is he doing for work? We we suspect he could possibly be a truck driver, or, you know, maybe he's just a traveler who uses the I 10 corridor for personal purposes.

Steve Gregory

Which complicates things even more?

Mike Thompson (Riverside DA's Office)

Well, Mike, you had mentioned we had mentioned, I mean, she she was a prostitute. And unfortunately, she wasn't in a great place in life. And frequently, law enforcement is accused of not caring about a victim because right, she's a prostitute. But those present a lot of unique challenges. If I did not come home tonight, and I get reported as a missing person, you could ask my friends, my family, my co workers, where was Mike? Where was he going? Oh, he was gonna go meet Steve Gregory here at RSA. Oh, well, did he show up? What time did he leave? Where did he go? Did he use his credit card to buy lunch? And, and back then they didn't have the cell phone technology and things like that. But But unfortunately, and in your process has changed with the advent of the internet. But you go back to the 90s, a prostitute working a truckstop she gets into a car of somebody that she probably doesn't know, somebody that probably her friends don't know, to go to a destination that she doesn't know about? Is she going to go on a long drive across country? Are they just going to go down the street for a sexual purpose and then return and so when you try to talk to her friends, who was she with? Where was she going? You encounter Out of those problems that you don't typically encounter on a traditional missing persons investigation, you don't have a financial footprint to follow to see, where did they go? Where did they go next? Where did they go next? And, unfortunately, they're in a circle of friends who are sometimes in the same bad place that they are, where typically they don't cooperate with law enforcement. Or maybe they just don't know, I saw her getting a truck was somebody who was at all I don't know, what was distinctive about the truck, I don't know, how long was she going to be gone? When was she going to be back? And you just don't get those types of information? And so reconstructing what happened, when, where, why and how can be very challenging

Steve Gregory

Forensic genealogy, you know, something you're really leaning on. And it's fascinating to me that even you said you might have a suspect profile. But this information is only as good as the data that's inputted into it. Correct?

Detective Corey

Correct.

Steve Gregory

So how do people? I mean, do I just submit my DNA to this database? So how does that work?

Mike Thompson (Riverside DA's Office)

Well, there are a number of direct to consumer kits ancestry.com 23andme, my heritage Family Tree DNA. If you have completed one of those tests already, you can download your DNA and submit it to Jed match. Jed match is an online resource, a clearing house where people can submit their DNA for comparison between because obviously ancestry doesn't talk to 23andme doesn't talk to my heritage and etc. So, I understand I'm asking some people to do things that might make them feel uncomfortable by submitting their DNA in a Jed match day might be identifying a cousin, a second cousin, some type of family member, identifying them to law enforcement. Sherri Herrera was not in a great place in her life, but she did not deserve to have what happened to her. She was viciously sexually assaulted and murdered, and nobody deserves to have that she's entitled to have the person who did this held accountable in for their actions.

Steve Gregory

Gentlemen, I wish you the best of luck on this. This sounds like a complicated case. It sounds like it's you've got a lot of variables and just a lot of roadblocks. But I wish you all the best success on this one. Thank you very much. Thank you guys coming up the Christmas night shooting of 2016 in the city of Riverside. But first, this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI am 640. Time now for a news update.

#### **SEGMENT 7**

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory and this is Unsolved. For the first time surveillance video has been released showing an attack on two people in a car in the city of Riverside. It happened in a residential area. This is the case of the Christmas night shooting of 2016. We're joined now by Riverside Police Department officer Javier Cabrera, he is a spokesperson for the Riverside Police Department. And we're talking about a shooting from 2016 happened Christmas Day of 2016. So first of all, sir, thanks for joining us appreciate it very much. Let's, let's start with an overview of the case. So tell us about the shooting that day that involves a carload of people and just shooters that came out of nowhere, just give us some background,

Officer Cabrera

it this actually occurred on Christmas day in 2016, about 10:09pm. The victim or name is Cassey Verrette, she was sitting with a male companion inside her vehicle on First Street between Main Street in Orange Street. In our city. They were sitting in the car when all of a sudden, three Hispanic males walking on the sidewalk without any notice, you know, some produce handguns and began firing into the vehicle. Cassey was able to start the car and didn't realize I guess he had in reverse, you know, sped hit the car behind her and then was able to drive away, and then realize that she actually had been hit, there was blood inside the vehicle. And she did. She was able to drive herself and her companion to the hospital where they were treated for their injuries.

Steve Gregory

So what time of the day was this?

Officer Cabrera

shortly after 10 o'clock at night.

Steve Gregory

And so were you initially able to get information about how were you able to find out? I mean, Cassie survived?

Officer Cabrera

Correct.

Steve Gregory

Right. So she was able to give you sort of an overview of what happened. And you said she didn't realize she had the car in reverse?

Officer Cabrera

Well, yeah, as he said, it will happen so quickly that when when the shooting started happening, she just wanted to get out of there. And she had said that she'd even like cars or a bird. She just got on the gas and car went backwards. She hit a car that was behind her. And then just during the drive and then drove out of there.

Steve Gregory

You're talking about First Street between Main and orange. What kind of an area of town is that?

Officer Cabrera

It's a residential neighborhood.

Steve Gregory

Is it just all homes around there?



Officer Cabrera

It's more townhomes. Yeah. There's some homes townhomes, different types of residences there.

Steve Gregory

And were there streetlights I mean, was illuminated. Yeah, there are there are street lights there. so unusual. I mean, obviously a shooting out of nowhere like that, or random shooting or wasn't random. We will get to that in a moment. But is it unusual for that kind of a shooting to happen in this kind of an area of town?

Officer Cabrera

Well, you know, at some some accident, you know, we consider random acts, but we are not right now. We really don't know if this was just a random act. We're trying to we're still trying to figure it out that night.

Steve Gregory

Tell us a little bit about Cassey. What what is she? What does she do? Who is she? And what's her background?

Officer Cabrera

You know, I really don't know much about Cassey. She's just a family girl. And older she I bet she was 22 at the time and I believe she's almost she's 28 now.

Steve Gregory

Okay, so che family girl and correct.

Officer Cabrera

We don't she doesn't have any type of gang affiliations. The person that she was with in her car, we believe he might have had some gang tie so that, you know, we're not 100% Sure, because we'd have anybody in custody to confirm anything. But we have strong suspicions that they were possibly targeting him. And unfortunately, he was collateral damage. Was he?

Steve Gregory

Is he a boyfriend or wasn't boyfriend? At the time?

Officer Cabrera

I believe he might have been our boyfriend. We're not 100% Sure.

Steve Gregory

And then what were you able to get from him? It sounds like he wasn't hit at all that

Officer Cabrera

he was grazed by a bullet. He had something like a small greys and he was treated at the hospital released on the same night.

Steve Gregory

What were you able to get from him?

Officer Cabrera

We interviewed him got some information description on suspects what he believed what the suspect suspect descriptions. He was fairly cooperative towards the beginning of the investigation.

Steve Gregory

And what about his background? I mean it was there anything about his behavior, or anything that led you to believe that he might be involved in a gang

Officer Cabrera

after they conducted some follow up investigation? They I can't confirm or deny but there are there are some type of gang ties that he was involved in. Did that make you guys suspicious right off the bat? Well, you know, you were assuming that yeah, they're definitely most likely he was the target, not Cassie.

Steve Gregory

So we're talking by the way with Officer Javier Cabrera with the Riverside Police Department about a shooting on Christmas 2016 happened in the evening hours in a residential area of Riverside. You're kind of going down this game path because you said there might be some affiliations of some sort with the boyfriend this Cassey that was hit the The gang affiliation. Let me back up, then. How many documented gangs do you have in Riverside?

Officer Cabrera

I'd have to look. Look that up. Oh, we have we have quite a few. We have some gangs. Yeah, I'm not going to we do have some assurance in the city.

Steve Gregory

Active, I mean, to the point where it's a problem, or is this just eroded? Or do these gang related crimes crop up? And then they die down?

Officer Cabrera

Correct? Yeah, we don't comparable to like other cities like LA, we don't we don't have that big of a problem. But what but the problem still exists? Yeah.

Steve Gregory

So you know, and I know you weren't the investigator there that night. You're just you're sort of recounting the story for so I know that you may not know a lot of the nuances of it. But what were you able to get from him other than a suspect description? Was there any indication or suspicion based on his body language or anything that might have led you to believe that there was something more to this?

Officer Cabrera

That night? No, we didn't get anything from him.

Steve Gregory

So now you've got Cassey, who is you saying she was in her? 20s, early 20s. At the time was 222. And she was what about the man, the young man?

Officer Cabrera

You know what? I really I don't have that information right now.

Steve Gregory

So fast forward to today. Then, have you had to now that you released this video, and we'll talk a little bit more about that coming up? But have you been able to talk to Cassey again? Or this boyfriend again? Have you been able to get anything new from them?

Officer Cabrera

We talked to Cassey and some family members of her hers. And but we have not been able to we didn't talk to the male companion? Are they still together? No, no, not together. They don't even she doesn't even know where he's at. She hasn't got hold him or anything.

Steve Gregory

Now, when you talk about this residential area, were there any other crimes? Or is that a what sort of your crime map, though, but does your crime map look like for that

Officer Cabrera

part of town? There's been some crimes in that in that particular area, some gang activity in that area.

Steve Gregory

So when you say gang activity, can you be more specific?

Officer Cabrera

You know, different different types of crimes that we could possibly label as gang related.

Steve Gregory

deaths, robberies, assaults, murder.

Officer Cabrera

Yeah. shootings, things like that. I mean, it's a big neighborhood. So it's just that particular street, maybe not that particular street, but the actual neighborhood, the surrounding areas, that we've had shootings and different things that are possibly gang related.

Steve Gregory

And what about the demographic for that area? What's the demographic?

Officer Cabrera

Usually that area is predominantly predominantly Hispanic and African American?

Steve Gregory

Okay. socio economic. I mean, it's just a wealthier area of town. Is it a not so wealthy area? I will see like middle class middle class. Yeah. Okay. So typically, probably very quiet neighborhood, working class families, for the most part. Yeah. So this is an unusual occurrence. Yeah, I would say that. Okay. When we come back, we're gonna talk more about this shooting in 2016. It happened on Christmas Day. And in the city of Riverside. We're talking with Officer Javier Cabrera. But first, this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on camera. I am 614 Time now for a news update.

### **SEGMENT 8**

Steve Gregory

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory and this is Unsolved.

We're talking with Javier Cabrera. He's an officer and spokesperson with the Riverside Police Department about a shooting. Not really sure if it was random or targeted, but it was a shooting on Christmas Day. 2016 actually took place around 10 o'clock at night, in a predominantly middle class neighborhood of Riverside. And before the break, we were talking a little bit about possible gang affiliation between the boyfriend of the woman that was driving, and you said you were not really sure yet that there might be might not be it wasn't really determined. But now what kind of brings us together is you've released a video that shows kasi throw the car into reverse, you know, Rush backwards, it shows what appears to be the guys opening fire. So this is a video that you just recently released in the month of April, right? Why now and not then.

Officer Cabrera

Okay, back then when the actual incident occurred. We were actually working in investing doing several investigations, while when the incident occurred, one of the investigators was a homicide, and two are my water heater, or maybe even two of the suspects on this video that we obtained that night. There

are physical characteristics and different things led us to believe that they might be the same people might be related. So then we were kind of like, you know, it, we'd probably compromise the investigations that we were already deep into if we released that video. So that's when we decided not to release that video because of the ongoing investigations that were taking place.

Steve Gregory

Well, that's kind of interesting. So then in I suppose that I'm and just correct me if I'm wrong there. I'm presuming that since there was no death included, or involved. Rather, in this shooting, we're talking about now that it didn't seem to be as big of a priority as solving the homicide prior?

Officer Cabrera

Well, it's still always a priority, you know, because this is somebody's somebody's daughter. It's somebody's family member that we still always a priority. But we still have to maintain the integrity of the other investigations. And we don't want to compromise that.

Steve Gregory

That's a tough spot to be in. It is. Wow, I don't think I've heard of something like that where you've had to sort of stop one investigation in favor of another because the information might be the same in in both cases,

Officer Cabrera

right? Where we really stopped the or her investigation, we continue to work diligently with what we had. Okay. It's just the actual video we couldn't release to the public.

Steve Gregory

I see. I see. Okay, that makes sense. So then, if you've released the video now some what? Six years later? Correct. Almost no serious? Oh, six years later? Yeah. So are we to take from that, either you solved the previous homicide, or you just hit a brick wall.

Officer Cabrera

You know what the previous ones? I'll be 100% honest, I'm not 100% sure if those were actually solved, there's a possibility they were I would have to research by read the actual report number and go back

Steve Gregory

but somebody give the green light for the release of the video..

Officer Cabrera

Correct. Meaning that it would no longer be compromised. Those old investigations. Yeah.

Steve Gregory

Interesting. I hope you can maybe tell us about that. Because I still like to know how that came to be. That's so fascinating. So now explain because obviously people are listening. Explain what's on the video. What did the video show you the video shows.

Officer Cabrera

Obviously, the Cassie is parked inside a white Malibu on the curb. When the first one Hispanic male appears he's like a heavysset Hispanic male. He appears walking kind of ahead kind of looks like he's like chicken out the whole situation checking out the scene. He's welcome first. And as he walks past her car, the other two Hispanic males follow behind him. And as right as the other two Hispanic males reach the front of the car on the sides are passing along the side, the long the car on the sidewalk. That's when the heavy satisfaction returns. Everybody pulls out the gun and just start opening fire on the vehicle.

Steve Gregory

And where did the rounds go through the windows? Or where did it go in the

Officer Cabrera

video shows him going through the front windshield. You go through the I believe the side door the car was hit multiple times we found a total of 10, 10 shell casings at the scene tend to spin up within three weapons three correct so it looks like they shot 10 times. Yeah. Wow.

Steve Gregory

It's miraculous. Yes, nothing more happened to them.

Officer Cabrera

It was it truly was especially with her because she she got hit three times and it was just she fortunate that you know she's still here with us.

Steve Gregory

And so what else did the video show you? Were you able to get enough of a description of the suspects,

Officer Cabrera

We have a description correct. And like I said earlier, the video was not released to the public. But it was released internally.

Steve Gregory

And so how did you use that internally? Then you were talking about the previous case. So so did you. How did that work? Did you reach out to other investigators in the department say, Hey, watch this, do you know these guys?

Officer Cabrera

Correct, what we do is we'll release it. department wide for our sworn officers. And then a lot of times, it's a lot of our department has very proactive officers. They're constantly out there. And they contact a lot of people. And along these years, they'll be they'll know their contacts when the people that remember names, they remember they live. And then in this case, a couple of our former gang intelligence detectives saw the video and they like, you know, what they it resembled some people they might have encountered and encountered in the past. So they also we had now a couple of persons of interest.

Steve Gregory

And where did that take you? Well,

Officer Cabrera

once we established the persons of interest, and we, we were able to put together photographic lineups, we actually put wherever to put three photographic lineups at three separate times for Cassie to the victim, to look at the photographic lineup, right with one of the persons of interest in it. And she wasn't able to identify anybody on any of the three occasions. And the male companion participated in two of them. And he also was not able to identify anybody.



Steve Gregory

Do you think that's how soon after the The incident happened, that you had the lineup? And the only reason I'm asking that officer is because I'm curious that is this a case of based on your experience of of the trauma still? Or do you think they just didn't get a good look?

Officer Cabrera

You know, what, it could be both a little bit of both. Because sometimes, either, if two things could happen when something dramatic like this happens to somebody either either have a spitting image of the person, they won't forget their face, or it'll be the complete opposite. They won't remember. So that's, that's the unfortunate part when they don't remember exactly. And this case, you know, there was some street lighting, but it was a little, you know, it could have been a little dark. It might have been hard to actually get a good look at their face. And it probably happened so quick. So when she heard the gunshots, she's probably like, trying to get out of there. You know? Yeah. Yeah. So it's one of those things.

Steve Gregory

So the persons of interest that you had? Is this a case of where he just let them go? And that's it, or do you put any surveillance on him?

Officer Cabrera

No, we did all that there was a person's interest led to search warrants, at the residences, parole searches, probation searches, surveillance, and unfortunately, it just it didn't go anywhere. Just Ted ends where these guys clean. From this particular case, yeah, we didn't find any history Correct. For this particular week, boys are not able to put this shooting, you know them as to shooters.

Steve Gregory

So what is it you want from the public?

Officer Cabrera

You not just see the video. Maybe you recognize somebody? Maybe you've heard something? Maybe you never know, somebody might have said something. You might talk about it. You heard somebody talk about it. You just never know. So we're hoping that maybe showing this video might shed some light, maybe some some new set of eyes will see something and I can we can get some new leads and reopen this case.

Steve Gregory

Well, of course, people are free to and should be encouraged to call the Riverside police department if you'd like though, you can also hit pound to 50 on your cell phone and say the key word unsolved and leave any information there. We'll make sure that investigators get that. So officer Cabrera, thank you so much for your time, much appreciated. And good luck. We hope that you can solve the case.

Officer Cabrera

Awesome. Thank you so much.

Steve Gregory

And that's going to do it unsolved with Steve Gregory is a production of the KFI News Department for iHeartMedia Los Angeles Robin Bertolucci, program director. Chris Little, news director. The program is produced by Steve Gregory and Jacob Gonzalez. The digital producer is Andro Mammo. The field engineers Tony Sorrentino, and the technical director is David Callaway. Coming up next, it's Coast to Coast but first, this is KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.