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For Immediate Release

Justice for Leah: Coquille Cold Case Heats Up

Nearly a Decade After her Death, Police Create Cold Case Team to Reinvestigate Murder of 15-Year-Old [Leah Freeman](#)

Coquille, Ore., Jan. 26, 2010 – Nearly a decade after the disappearance and subsequent murder of 15-year-old [Coquille, Ore.](#) teen [Leah Freeman](#) local law enforcement announced that they have created a cold case team to reinvestigate the case. Freeman disappeared while walking home in Coquille the night of June 28, 2000. Her body was discovered in Fairview, a wooded town eight miles outside of Coquille, more than a month later on Aug. 3, 2000. After an autopsy was performed, it was determined that Freeman died from homicidal violence.

The new cold case team includes more than 20 officers and support staff from the Coquille, Coos Bay, North Bend and Bandon police departments, Oregon State Police, Coos County Sheriff's Office and Oregon Department of Justice. Coquille Police Chief Mark Dannels and Coos County District Attorney Paul Frasier made the announcement during a press conference held in Coquille Monday. "The case has been revitalized from all aspects, all the way from the evidence, all the way from the leads, all the way from the files," said Dannels.

Leah Freeman's mother, [Cory Courtright](#) has been openly pleading to have a cold case team assigned to her daughter's case for years now. "I have been waiting for this day for nearly a decade," she exclaimed. After the announcement Courtright said she feels rejuvenated about the investigation, "Learning that local law enforcement has created a cold case team to reinvestigate Leah's murder has renewed my confidence in their efforts to seek justice for my daughter's murder."

Investigators say they are starting back at square one as if Freeman's murder happened yesterday and they are using advances in technology to help uncover clues that were missed the first time around. "New technology has been applied, new leads have been added that weren't there initially," Dannels explained. Frasier remains unwilling to name any suspects or persons of interest in the nearly 10-year-old case but stated, "We are optimistic based on what we found so far and with the work that's being done that we can bring this case to a resolution."

A \$10,000 reward is being offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction. The [Coquille Police Department](#) is asking anyone with information regarding Leah's murder to contact them at (541) 396-2114; their tipline is being manned 24 hours a day to ensure that all tips go directly to officers.

The [Coquille Valley Crime Stoppers](#), <http://www.cvcrimestop.com/>, a local 501(c)3 that was established to assist law enforcement in solving existing and "cold" case crimes, is accepting donations to raise additional reward funds for information leading to an arrest and conviction in Leah's case. Donations can be made at the Justice for Leah Facebook cause page, <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/341103/62040763?m=6d54c0aa>, or by contacting the Coquille Valley Crime Stoppers at chairman@cvcrimestop.com.

For more information regarding Justice for Leah please visit <http://www.leahfreeman.com> or <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Justice-for-Leah/143634984432#>.