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Three Individuals Charged in 2005 Murder

TRENTON – Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. announced today that three men have been charged in the 2005 shooting death of 33-year-old Kendra Degrasse.

Trenton Police Director Irving Bradley Jr. joined Bocchini in the announcement along with investigators from both agencies and the New Jersey Department of Corrections.

Bocchini stated that last week, Mercer County Prosecutor's Detective Matthew Norton, Trenton Police Detective Manuel Montez and Investigator Raphael Dolce of the state Department of Corrections Special Investigations Division traveled to West Point, Georgia, with members of the U.S. Marshals NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force. With assistance from the Troup County (Ga.) Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Marshals Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (Atlanta, Ga.), **Darrell Scott** was arrested at a home he was renting. Scott (DOB 2/4/70) is charged with murder, conspiracy to commit murder, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and unlawful possession of a weapon. He is awaiting extradition to New Jersey.

Following Scott's arrest in Georgia, investigators served complaints to **Anthony Kidd** in New Jersey State Prison and **Henry Kidd** in state prison in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Anthony Kidd (DOB 5/11/72) is charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Henry Kidd (DOB 5/26/70) is charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Degrasse was found on March 24, 2005, at approximately 8:30 p.m. at the corner of Spring and White streets in Trenton. She was in the driver's seat of her Nissan Pathfinder and had been shot multiple times in the head.

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Bocchini stated that as part of an ongoing effort to revisit unsolved cases, his Homicide Unit recently took a fresh look at all of the information collected in the case to date. By combining this analysis with some new leads and the assistance of the state Department of Corrections Special Investigations Division, investigators were able to develop enough probable cause to charge the three defendants with Degrasse's murder.

"These arrests were not the result of a single 'smoking gun,'" Bocchini stated. "They are the end result of solid, tireless police work and a tremendous collaborative effort by many agencies to obtain justice for Ms. Degrasse."

Trenton Police Director Irving Bradley, Jr. stated, "The old saying that a homicide investigation is never closed is not just a saying but a reality. The homicide charges lodged on these three individuals are a prime example of our detectives' tenacity and fortitude. We never give up on our efforts to solve 'cold cases.' We might hit roadblocks, but we never quit or cease to investigate."

The investigation revealed that, while incarcerated at Northern State Prison in 2005, Anthony Kidd used a smuggled cell phone to place calls to his brother, Henry, and his cousin, Darrell Scott, to orchestrate Degrasse's murder. Scott traveled from Alabama to the Trenton area in March 2005 for the sole purpose of killing Degrasse. The investigation further revealed that, in addition to giving Scott the order to kill Degrasse, Anthony Kidd used the cell phone to call Degrasse and lure her to the location of the hit

BACKGROUND

In January 2001, Anthony Kidd was arrested and charged with attempted murder for shooting at two Trenton police officers who tried to stop his fleeing vehicle. Shortly after his arrest, Kendra Degrasse, Kidd's girlfriend, gave a statement to the police implicating Kidd in the shooting.

During Kidd's 2003 trial, it was revealed that he had sent threatening letters to two of the state's key witnesses, including Degrasse. It was also revealed that Anthony Kidd sent his brother, Henry, to take Degrasse to a notary to get a letter signed recanting her earlier statement to police. Both witnesses testified during the trial but recanted their original statements. Despite these developments, Anthony Kidd was convicted and in October 2003 was sentenced to 47 years in state prison. He is not eligible for parole until 2030.

Both Anthony and Henry Kidd were charged with witness tampering and indicted in May 2004. Prosecutors were forced to dismiss the charge in 2005 after Degrasse's murder.

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Bocchini praised the outstanding work of everyone involved in the investigation and apprehension of Anthony Kidd, Henry Kidd and Scott, especially Detectives Norton and Montez, who continued to work this case after being transferred to other units within their respective agencies.

Bradley also congratulated all of the officers involved in making sure that this crime wouldn't go unpunished. "It was the perfect unison of law enforcement agencies working together to make this a reality," he stated.

Assistant Prosecutor Lew Korngut, chief of the Homicide Unit, is prosecuting the case.

Despite having been charged, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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