



City of Columbia Police Department



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2008

Contact: PIO, Brick Lewis @ 413-8555

Columbia Police Make Arrest In Cold Case Homicide

Columbia Police have arrested a suspect involved in a homicide from 1999. Jerome Harper, Jr. (DOB: 10/21/1981) has turned himself into Investigators with the Cold Case Unit at CPD Headquarters. Hickman has been charged with Conspiracy to Commit Armed Robbery, Armed Robbery and Accessory After the Fact of Murder.

On October 31, 1999, Nicholas S. Thompson was murdered during an armed robbery at 5401 Farrow Road.

Early last month, Columbia Police with assistance from the FBI, identified Harper, Johnny Fletcher, Jr. (DOB: 11/30/1977) and Jacques Hickman (DOB: 9/2/1976) as suspects in the homicide of Mr. Thompson. Currently, Fletcher is incarcerated at the U.S. Penitentiary-Lee, in Virginia in an unrelated matter.

Columbia Investigators are searching for the remaining suspect, Hickman. He is believed to be in the Columbia area. Hickman and Harper are being charged with conspiracy to commit armed robbery, armed robbery and accessory after the fact of murder.

Columbia Police are asking for the public's assistance in locating Hickman. If anyone has knowledge of his whereabouts, you are asked to call the Columbia Police Department at (803) 545-3500 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 559-TIPS.

*Media Note: Captain Dodson will be available tomorrow morning for any interviews related to this release.

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#1 Justice Square / PO Box 1059 / Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 545-3500



Jerome Harper Jr.
B/M/26
HT: 6'05" WT: 200 lbs.



Jacques Hickman
B/M/31
HT: 5'7', WT: 199



Johnny Fletcher, Jr.
B/M/30
DOB: 11/30/1977
HT: 5'8', WT: 175