



**The Society for the Study of Social Problems**  
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September 4, 2012

Mr. Howard Morton  
FOHVAMP  
P.O. Box 145  
Pine CO 80470

Dear Mr. Morton:

This past August, the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), one of the oldest and most respected social science organizations in the United States, held its annual meeting in Denver. At this meeting, one of our members, Dr. Michael Radelet, a Professor of Sociology and specialist in criminology at the University of Colorado at Boulder, submitted the attached resolution. As an organization committed to the resolution of social problems, the membership was mindful of the problems surrounding unsolved murders and the havoc they create in the lives of victims' family and friends, and therefore approved the resolution, thereby urging full funding of the Cold Case Team of Investigators envisioned in the 2007 legislation.

The SSSP will be sending a copy of this resolution to both houses of the Colorado legislature and to the state's Governor, but wanted to provide you with a copy as well in the event that this resolution can help you in the work that you are doing on behalf of victims' families. Our own funds are limited, so our support is limited to moral support and any expertise we may be able to lend on the subject and to your work.

Do not hesitate to let us know if we can help, and we applaud the work that you and your colleagues are doing. Please extend our best wishes to victims' families and friends.

Sincerely,

Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.  
Executive Officer

Enclosure

**RESOLUTION: Unsolved Homicide Cases**

*Submitted by Michael L. Radelet, Department of Sociology, University of Colorado (on behalf of Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons)*

**Whereas** Unsolved Homicide Cases are a growing menace to public safety in the U.S. and in Colorado; since 1970 there have been nearly 1,500 murders and 100 disappearances in Colorado for which no one has ever been prosecuted and the total of these cold cases grows each year, and nationally the proportion of homicides cleared by arrest has declined from over 90 percent in 1960 to just over 60 percent today;

**Whereas** many of the families and friends of these cold case victims suffer a complicated grief and post-traumatic stress disorder that does not disappear over time;

**Whereas** many of those who took the lives of these victims walk among us without having been held accountable for their crimes, they live in our neighborhoods, and some threaten our families and/or intimidate witnesses;

**Whereas** a Bill passed by the Colorado legislature in 2007 by a 99-1 vote calls for a Cold Case Team of Investigators at Colorado Bureau of Investigation to augment efforts of local law enforcement to examine these cases, but that Cold Case team never materialized due to an absence of funding;

**Be it therefore resolved** that the membership of the Society for the Study of Social Problems is encouraged to be mindful of the social problems surrounding unsolved murders, including their impact on family and friends of the victims as well as the need for specially trained investigators to assist local law enforcement in addressing these difficult cases;

**Be it further resolved** that the SSSP shall officially endorse the full funding of the Cold Case Team of Investigators envisioned in the 2007 legislation and communicate their endorsement to both houses of the Colorado legislature and the State's Governor;

**Be it further resolved** that SSSP communicate its support for Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons, Inc. ("FOHVAMP") in its ongoing efforts to find, support, and empower family members and friends suffering from a loved one's unsolved homicide or from their long-term, suspicious disappearance.