

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG STRANGE, JEFFERSON COUNTY DA ANNOUNCE MULTIPLE SEX CRIMES CHARGES AGAINST MAN SERVING LIFE SENTENCE FOR ROBBERY

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange and Jefferson County District Attorney announced additional charges against a Birmingham man who is currently serving a life sentence for convictions achieved by the Attorney General’s Cold Case Unit.

Patrick O’Neal Warren has been served notice of indictments* returned on July 13, 2012 by a Jefferson County grand jury. Warren is charged with first-degree rape, first degree, sodomy, attempted murder and first-degree arson regarding an attack in March of 2008. He is charged with first-degree rape, first-degree sodomy and attempted murder for an attack in December of 2008.

No additional details about the investigation or these charges other than what is stated in the indictments may be disclosed at this time.

Warren currently is incarcerated for a 2006 robbery in Calhoun County, to which he pleaded guilty in December of 2011. Specifically, Warren pleaded guilty to attacking an Anniston woman at knifepoint on April 28, 2006 and then stealing her vehicle and money. Because Warren had two prior felony convictions, he was subject to Alabama’s Habitual Offender Act and received the maximum sentence. Warren is also subject to provisions of the community notification law regarding sex offenders due to his pleading guilty to first-degree rape in 2001 in Jefferson County.

The Attorney General's Cold Case Unit is a project conducted in partnership with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, to investigate violent crimes that previously had been closed due to lack of investigative leads. This program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The current charges against Warren are being prosecuted by the Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office and investigated by Special Agents of the Attorney General’s Office. Valuable assistance was provided in the Warren case by the Bessemer, Birmingham and Anniston police departments.

**An indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

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