

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM

Petitioner: Yolanda T. King, County Manager

Recommendation:

Recognize the contribution of entrepreneur and philanthropist Justin Woo in solving a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department cold case.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund #:	N/A	Fund Name:	N/A
Fund Center:	N/A	Funded PGM/Grant:	N/A
Amount:	N/A		
Description:	N/A		
Additional Comments:	N/A		

BACKGROUND:

Commissioner Naft would like to recognize entrepreneur and philanthropist Justin Woo, who generously offered to donate funds enabling the Texas-based laboratory, Othram, to use the equivalent of 15 human cells to successfully solve a 32-year-old cold case through genome sequencing and a genealogical investigation. That case involved 14-year-old Stephanie Isaacson, who was viciously attacked and murdered while walking on her way to school on June 1, 1989. Despite attempts to locate a suspect through DNA recovered on her shirt, the cold case lingered. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department did everything it could to solve the case, using older DNA technology in 1998, obtaining a DNA profile from a sample in 2007, and comparing over the course of 13 years more than 30 DNA samples against the DNA profile obtained from Stephanie. But, still, there was no match. It was not until Mr. Woo provided funding that the Othram lab was able to identify the suspect, who had committed suicide in 1995, using what may be a world-record smallest amount of DNA employed to solve a crime. Mr. Woo is to be commended for his instrumental role in solving a terrible crime that traumatized a Las Vegas family and the community for many years.

Cleared for Agenda

09/21/2021

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