

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOHN T. SAVRNOCH
District Attorney



07-745

RELEASE NUMBER

July 1, 2024

RELEASE DATE

Sr. Deputy District Attorney Ann Bramsen

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Breakthrough in Cold Case: Arrest Made in 1988 Santa Maria Murder; DA Files Charges for Special Circumstance Murder

Re: People v. Aloysius Winthrop James, Santa Barbara County Superior Court, Case No. 24CR02219

Santa Barbara County District Attorney John Savrnoch announced today that charges have been filed against Aloysius Winthrop James of Georgia for the murder of Ofelia Sandoval on September 18, 1988, in the City of Santa Maria. James faces one felony count of First Degree Murder under Penal Code Section 187(a) and is additionally charged with a Special Circumstance pursuant to Penal Code Section 190.2(a)(17)(C) for murder committed during the commission of rape.

Mr. James was arraigned on July 1, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 9 of the Santa Maria Superior Court. He entered a plea of not guilty to the charge and denied the special circumstance. James remains in custody without bail. His next court appearance is scheduled for July 30, 2024, in Department 6 of the Santa Maria Superior Court before the Honorable Judge Imel.

The investigation was led by Santa Maria Police Department Detective Craven, with support from members of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney Investigative Bureau. Senior Deputy District Attorney Ann Bramsen is leading the prosecution team.

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