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COLD MURDER CASE ENDS IN BROOKLYN MAN'S CONVICTION

Faces up to Life in Prison for 2011 Murder in Ridgewood

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced that Gerald Griffin was convicted of murder in the cold case killing of a 31-year-old man found naked and bludgeoned in his Ridgewood home in 2011.

District Attorney Katz said: "This cold-blooded killer thought he could get away with murder, but the NYPD tracked him down and we made sure he will go to jail for a long time."

Griffin, 46, of Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn, was convicted by a jury of murder in the second degree, burglary in the first degree, robbery in the first and second degrees, intimidating a witness in the third degree, attempted tampering with physical evidence, criminal possession of stolen property in the fifth degree and criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree. Griffin faces 25 years to life in prison on the murder conviction when he is sentenced by Queens Supreme Court Justice Ushir Pandit-Durant on June 15.

According to the charges and trial testimony:

- On September 14, 2011, at approximately 5:00 p.m., Peter Polizzi was found by his brother inside his apartment at 57-06 Clover Place in Ridgewood. He was underneath a couch, naked and badly beaten. The apartment had been ransacked and various items were missing. Polizzi died three days later.
- Officers responding to the location recovered a used wine glass and a bloody baseball bat. Detectives investigating the incident obtained information from a friend of the family who saw two men leaving the location at approximately 11:15 a.m. on September 14, with one wearing a T-shirt that read, "Irving Scrap Metal."
- The NYPD's Cold Case Squad received the case in 2015. Working with Polizzi's phone records, they found a woman who revealed she was inside the apartment at the time of the murder.
- The woman said she had been taken to the address by Griffin, who was her pimp at the time, and another man. Griffin attacked Polizzi with a baseball bat and the other man beat him. After the attack, the men ransacked the apartment and removed two cell phones, money, a unique watch with a diamond-encrusted face and a box containing a white powdery substance.
- DNA taken from the wine glass matched the woman's DNA profile. In 2017, she identified Griffin in a photograph as the perpetrator with the bat. Griffin's Facebook account included a photograph of him

wearing the stolen watch. Additionally, business records from Irving Scrap Metal identified Griffin as a customer of the company at the time of the murder.

- Griffin was indicted in 2018.

Senior Assistant District Attorney John Esposito prosecuted the case along with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Xhulia Derhemi both of the District Attorney's Homicide Bureau under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter McCormack III and John W. Kosinski, Senior Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and Karen Ross, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Shawn Clark.

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