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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**State Attorney Monique Worrell’s Announces First-Degree Murder Conviction**

**ORANGE COUNTY, FL** (January 20, 2023) — Ninth Judicial Circuit State Attorney Monique H. Worrell announces a jury in Orange County found Adam Higginbotham, 39, guilty of first-degree murder.

On May 5, 2022, the victim and wife of Mr. Higginbotham, Mrs. Connie Dunn was last seen on video surveillance with the defendant walking in downtown Orlando towards the abandoned Orlando Sentinel building at 633 N. Orange Avenue. Her phone activity ceased that afternoon, and Mr. Higginbotham is then seen walking alone on video surveillance shortly thereafter.

On May 9, 2022, Mrs. Dunn’s body is discovered by a security guard. Her body was in a state of decomposition and found covered with debris and a metal construction sign. Her neck had a broken sprinkler pipe and electrical cord wrapped tightly around it. The cause and manner of death was deemed homicide by ligature strangulation.

On May 15, 2022, Mr. Higginbotham was observed by law enforcement to have scratches on his face and body. Items recovered from his campsite included notes to Mrs. Dunn and God seeking revenge on her soul.

On June 9, 2022, a search warrant for DNA was executed, and Mr. Higginbotham’s DNA was found under Mrs. Dunn’s fingernails. On the same day, he made a jail call to his son stating, “Connie was gone” and asking his son to contact an old friend saying that he would “vouch for him.” Assistant State Attorney Dave Cacciatore worked alongside Detective Travis Ring to piece this tragic murder together from the inception of the case.

Through the tireless efforts of Assistant State Attorneys Dave Cacciatore and Lauryn Day, the jury ultimately returned a verdict of guilty on January 20, 2023. A special thanks goes out to Victim Advocate Mary Mungillo and Witness Coordinator Damien Piquet.

Mr. Higginbotham was released from prison within 3 years of committing a dangerous offense in Oregon, and was thus, eligible for a prisoner release reoffender enhancement. He was sentenced to life in prison on February 6, 2023.

The Ninth Judicial Circuit’s State Attorney’s Office thanks the Orlando Police Department, and specifically, Detective Travis Ring and his team for their diligent work on this case.

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*The Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit is represented by The Honorable Monique H. Worrell and serves Orange and Osceola counties in Central Florida. A culturally diverse community, the*

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*area is home to nearly 1.4 million residents and is a vacation destination for millions each year. Our office is committed to making Orlando and the surrounding area a vibrant and safe place to live, work and play.*

For general media inquiries, please contact: [PIO@sao9.org](mailto:PIO@sao9.org).

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