



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

April 21, 2025

Sheriff Curtis Johnson  
Boulder County Sheriff's Office

**RE: 1975 Homicide of John Patterson**

Sheriff Johnson,

The District Attorney has completed the review of BCSO case 75-04014 related to the homicide of John C. Patterson. The District Attorney's Office has determined the evidence supports proof beyond a reasonable doubt that Louis Locicero committed the crime of Murder in the First Degree under C.R.S. 18-3-102(1)(b). If he were alive today, our office would file this charge and prosecute him for the murder of Mr. Patterson.

In 1975, C.R.S. 18-3-102(1)(b) provided:

"[a]cting either alone or with one or more persons, he commits or attempts to commit arson, robbery, burglary, kidnapping, rape, or any sexual offense prohibited by sections 18-3-402, 18-3-403, or 18-3-404, and in the course of or in furtherance of the crime that he is committing or attempting to commit, or in the immediate flight therefrom, the death of a person, other than one of the participants, is caused."

As an initial matter, the District Attorney's Office approaches each decision to open an investigation or file a case against an individual with great care and scrutiny. The DA's Office adheres to and applies professional standards established by, among others, the National District Attorneys Association ("NDAA"). The policies of the DA's Office are consistent with NDAA and many prosecution offices around the country: the DA's Office files cases with a reasonable likelihood of success of conviction at trial. The standard of proof utilized in cases filed by the DA's Office is the highest in our justice system. We must be confident that we can prove any case beyond a reasonable doubt.

The evidence in this case shows beyond a reasonable doubt John Patterson was killed during a robbery of the Cascade Service Station. Mr. Patterson was working as a clerk at the service station and died after being stabbed in the chest. The cash register was open and the cash inside had been stolen. Lying next to Mr. Patterson's body were two unfired .30 caliber carbine cartridges. Both cartridges had indentations in the primers. A firearm had exerted insufficient force from the firing pin to ignite the primer.

Mr. Locicero was arrested after the homicide when he was contacted in a motel nearby the service station. Mr. Locicero was in possession of a .30 caliber rifle with a

round in the magazine with a primer strike defect similar to those of the cartridges found on scene. For an unknown reason, Mr. Locicero was released three days after his arrest. Records do not contain information as to the reason for his release.

In reviewing and examining this cold case homicide in 2025, the Boulder County Sheriff's Office utilized Ballistics IQ to examine the cartridges in evidence. The Ballistics IQ results, and later confirmation examination, concluded the primer strikes on the two unfired cartridges from the crime scene and the unfired cartridge from the rifle in possession of Mr. Locicero originated from the same firearm.

The new scientific connection between the cartridges is significant in allowing the District Attorney's Office to conclude beyond a reasonable doubt Mr. Locicero was responsible for the murder.

Additional evidence located in the examination of the case file supported this conclusion, as well. An examination of a knife found in the possession of Mr. Locicero revealed it had the same dimensions as the wound in Mr. Patterson's chest. The wound pattern, also, showed a double bruise pattern consistent with the hilt of the knife. FBI reports show blue fibers on the knife and sheath consistent with the blue shirt Mr. Patterson was wearing and "tissue-like material" being collected from the knife. The tissue-like material could not be located during this review by the Boulder County Sheriff's Office, but it should be noted the first use of forensic DNA did not occur until 1984.

Notes in the FBI file indicate numerous brown head hairs found on Locicero's right boot and two brown head hairs found on his left boot, microscopically match head hairs from Patterson. However, the hairs do not possess a sufficient number of unique microscopic characteristics to be positively identified as originating from a particular person to the exclusion of all others.

After a careful review of the information contained in BCSO reports, FBI reports and recent Ballistics IQ findings, the District Attorney's Office concludes the evidence proves beyond a reasonable doubt Louis Locicero is responsible for the robbery and murder of John Patterson.

The District Attorney's Office thanks the Boulder County Sheriff's Office for their diligent efforts on this cold case homicide. The District Attorney's Office hopes Mr. Patterson's family may find closure after having this case unsolved for 50 years.



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20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District