

Commonwealth of Virginia

STEVE DESCANO
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
4110 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, ROOM 114
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-4047

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Contact: Laura Birnbaum, PIO

laura.birnbaum@fairfaxcounty.gov

CHARLES HELEM PLEADS GUILTY TO COLD-CASE MURDER

Fairfax County, VA -- Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano today announced that Charles Helem has pled guilty to the 1987 cold-case murder of Eige Sober-Adler.

Helem, who is currently serving a life sentence in maximum security prison for the 2002 murder of his then-ex-girlfriend Patricia Bentley, confessed in 2021 to two cold case murders, sharing information that detectives said only the killer would know.

A Fairfax County grand jury direct indicted Helem in January 2022. He was charged separately in Prince George's County regarding the 2002 killing of Jennifer Landry.

CA Steve Descano said, "Today, the community can begin to move toward peace and closure. I am grateful for the cooperation across agencies and jurisdictions that helped solve this case, including from Fairfax Police Chief Kevin Davis, Prince George's Police Chief Malik Aziz, and the cold case detectives in both jurisdictions."

Under the agreement, Helem will be transferred to Maryland to plead guilty to the murder of Jennifer Landry and serve the remainder of his life sentence. The transfer of custody required an executive agreement between the Governors of Maryland and Virginia.

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