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SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Coroner Thomas Philpot
Lake County Coroner's Office
2900 West 93rd Avenue
Crown Point, IN 46307-1866

August 30, 2010

Dear Coroner Philpot:

Scripps Howard News Service based in Washington, D.C., is conducting a national reporting project looking into the 185,000 unsolved homicides committed in the United States since 1980. As part of this project, we are investigating whether it's possible to spot victims of serial murder among these unsolved killings using the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report.

Using multivariate analysis, we've determined that Gary, Indiana, has an elevated number of unsolved murders of women who were strangled in recent years. The data that local police departments reported to the FBI are consistent with the possibility that multiple-victim killers have operated in northwestern Indiana.

Broadly, we see two possible patterns. In recent years, several women have been strangled in their homes. In at least two cases, a fire was set after the women were killed. Also, starting in the 1990s we've seen several women who were found strangled in or near abandoned buildings.

We doubt these killings are the result of convicted serial killer Eugene V. Britt, who admitted to killing eight people in 1995.

Please note the attached list of homicide victims. We'd be grateful if your investigators would review these cases to determine if any might have a common perpetrator.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please help us explore whether national crime data can assist local law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hargrove
Scripps Howard News Service
202-408-2803

Unsolved Strangulations of Women in Gary, Indiana

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
Essie Mitchell	12/04/2007	Strangled, raped, found outside backdoor
Theresa Barnes	03/23/2007	Strangled at home
Unidentified female	02/26/2007	Strangled in garage, fire set 200 Polk Street, Gary, Ind.
Maria Mora *	05/04/2006	Strangled at home, fire set
Kim Sam	02/14/2006	Strangled at home
Abbie Vitoux	06/24/2005	Strangled at home
Jacqueline Soto	12/28/1998	Strangled at home
Joselyn King	05/28/1998	Strangled, found naked in alley
Sherry Robinson	01/07/1997	Strangled, found nearly nude in alley
Candee J. Brady**	02/11/1997	Strangled at home
Yvonne Wallace***	07/24/1996	Strangled, body near train tracks
Unidentified woman	03/25/1993	Strangled, crawlspace, abandoned house 1732 Monroe Street, Gary, Ind.
Unidentified woman*	06/27/1992	Strangled, found in abandoned house 3814 Pulaski Street, East Chicago, Ind.
Ann Marie Russo	03/03/1992	Strangled in abandoned house front yard
Susanne Rohweder	11/27/1991	Strangled, stuffed in bags on back porch

All were reported by Gary Police Department unless otherwise indicates

* Reported by East Chicago Police

** Reported by Portage Police

*** Reported by Hammond Police