



For Immediate Release

Date: December 17, 2019

Re: Jury finds Jerad Gourdin Guilty of Aggravated Murder

The jury deliberated for about six hours before finding Jerad Gourdin, guilty of aggravated murder for pecuniary gain in the murder of Belen Perez.

Perez, age 60 was found dead in her Provo home. The medical examiner's office ruled the cause of death to be homicide by strangulation.

"Provo Police detectives conducted an incredible investigation to put the facts of this case together," stated Deputy County Attorney, Lance Bastian.

"Utah County is much safer without Gourdin in our community. I'm proud of the excellent trial work of my deputy county attorneys to put a solid case before the jury and have them return a guilty verdict." Said David O. Leavitt, Utah County Attorney.

Bastian continued, "This crime occurred May 21, 2014 and remained unsolved for a very long time. With incredible support from law enforcement and great support from former County Attorney, Jeff Buhman, and current County Attorney, David O. Leavitt, we were able to build a compelling case where the jury could deliberate this case on its merits and facts."

Gourdin, was sent back to prison on a stabbing that occurred the day after Perez's death. Upon requesting initiation into a gang and knowing it required a killing, Gourdin inquired if a previous incident would satisfy that requirement. This information provided key evidence linking Gourdin to the death of Perez.

Sentencing is set for January 22, 2020 where Gourdin could be sentenced to 25 years to life or life without the possibility of parole.

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For more information or for interview requests, please contact:

Sherrie Hall Everett
Public Information Officer
Utah County Attorney
801.851.8026
801.358.4147 text/cell

PIO-UCAO@utahcounty.gov
[Utah County Attorney Website](#)