

My name is Charles Tilby. I am submitting testimony in support of the Oregon DOJ Watch Center. I served as a police officer for 38 years, retiring as a Captain from the Eugene Police Department. After retirement, I worked in the private sector for 6 years then I was honored to be selected to work cold homicide cases for the Lane County Sheriff's Office. As a police investigator, Sergeant and Manager, I utilized the research and analytical services of the Watch Center for many complex investigations including terrorism and homicide cases. The Eugene Police Department is large enough to have analysts on board, but the capabilities of the Watch Center far exceeded our local resources. Most law enforcement agencies in the state lack any substantial research and analytical resources. Such is the case with Lane County Sheriff's Office.

Cold homicide cases are generally cold because they lack physical evidence directly pointing to a suspect, are complex or there are tenuous connections between the victim and the perpetrator. One factor contributing to the difficulty of such investigations is the length of time since the crime. During that time evidence deteriorates, memories fade or witnesses are difficult to locate or they die. While there have been significant advances in scientific evidence such as DNA, the positive results of a forensic DNA process often only provides a strong lead pointing to a suspect, as opposed to a scientific certainty placing the suspect at the scene of the crime. Interestingly, now that we have experience with forensic DNA investigations, we are finding that many of the perpetrators did not have a significant criminal history. All of these factors heighten the need for extensive research and analysis of records and data to reconstruct a profile of the suspect, often as much as 40 years prior. This requires an analytical tool box which provides numerous areas of inquiry and a greater emphasis on human evaluation of records since there is very little testimonial evidence of facts, situations and relationships. This is where the Watch Center excels. The process is much more complex than just pulling available records, and relies on a collaboration between the investigator and analyst to understand the data and look for relationships that will be significant. I have experience in accessing similar services on a national and regional level and have found that the investigator's ability to work extensively with analysts is very limited as they are responsible for large jurisdictions and huge caseloads. Additionally, in order to adequately analyze complex records, an analyst must possess an understanding of the geography, political structure and culture of the area in order to attach significance to certain data. I can testify first hand that analysts in California or Washington DC, do not have that level of understanding of Oregon and the quality of their analysis suffers. I believe that it is critical to have a robust analytical capability that the ODOJ Watch Center provides to adequately serve Oregon law enforcement agencies as well as the citizens and crime victims in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and your service to the citizens of Oregon. I am more than happy to be available and/or answer questions in the future.