

# **PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE**

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY DOUG JOHNSON

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## **WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY FILES MURDER CHARGES IN DOUBLE HOMICIDE CASE**

Washington County Attorney Doug Johnson announced today that his office has charged Steven Allen Van Keuren (d.o.b. 3/6/1960) with two counts of murder in the second degree in the deaths of Teri Lynn Lee and Timothy Jon Hawkinson Sr. On September 22, 2006, Lee and Hawkinson were found shot to death in Lee's home in West Lakeland Township after the Washington County Strategic Response Team entered the home and wounded Van Keuren who was armed when they arrived.

The twelve-year-old daughter of Teri Lee told Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Danielle Erickson that she was in her mother's bedroom sleeping when she awoke to Van Keuren randomly shooting in the bedroom. Her mother and Timothy Hawkinson were also asleep in the room. The daughter said that Van Keuren first shot Tim, then shot her mother in the hand, grabbed her and then shot her again, she believed, in the stomach. Her sister then came to the bedroom doorway and the two ran to the bathroom across the hall where they stayed for approximately 10 minutes. During this time she heard Van Keuren talking on the telephone and making the statement, "I shot Teri, I shot her dead." When she heard Van Keuren on the phone, she used the opportunity to run out of the house to the neighbor's for help.

It is not known when Van Keuren will appear in court since he is still hospitalized due to gunshot wounds. Besides the wounds inflicted by law enforcement, Van Keuren has a wound to the throat which was apparently self-inflicted. He is presently in Regions Hospital in St. Paul where he has been under the surveillance of the Washington County Sheriff's Office since September 22.

"We will be asking the judge to convene a grand jury," Johnson said, "in order to seek an indictment of two counts of First Degree Murder. This was a vicious premeditated act and it is our intent to see that he never is released from prison."

For further information, please contact Doug Johnson or Sue Harris, Washington County Attorney's Office at 651-430-6115.