

PRESS RELEASE August 20, 2009

Re: Steve Strom Edward L. Owens
Concerning the murder of Karin Strom on June 6, 1980 in Woods Cross

Davis County Attorney's Office
[In response to multiple media requests]

While evidence exists to show that Steve Strom was violent to his wife Karin when intoxicated, there is a significant lack of credible admissible evidence to prove [beyond a reasonable doubt] that Steve Strom was involved in Karin Strom's murder. As a result, Steve Strom will not be charged.

After a time consuming re-investigation by the Woods Cross City Police Department and the Davis County Attorney's Office, the conclusions remain consistent with the evidence presented at the trial of Ed Owens. Ed Owens killed Karin Strom by crushing her neck during a violent sexually charged attack. Ed caused other serious injuries to multiple parts of Karin's body while assaulting and killing her. Karin Strom did not die quietly. Ed's biological material, including blood, was collected on Karin as she struggled for her life and gouged his face and arms. The post-conviction statements of killer Owens are in direct contradiction to his pre-conviction position that Steve Strom was the actual physical murderer. There is a lack of credible, clear, direct, and admissible evidence to corroborate that Steve Strom solicited such an attack. The reasonable view of all evidence (admissible and non-admissible) is that Steve Strom did not solicit, hire, or agree to pay Ed Owens to kill his wife Karin Strom. This evidence includes, but is definitely not limited to, recent interviews of Ed Owens, many hours of phone calls Ed Owens made from the Davis County jail, the original case file, and the evidence gathered since the case was reopened a few years ago. In addition, the inconsistent recent statements of Ed Owens are problematic.

Steve Strom was a suspect for many years and was even a defendant for a time in 1980. Circumstantial and hearsay evidence, most of which is not admissible, had pointed in that direction. Based upon the long held suspicions concerning Steve Strom, the possibility of a murder for hire scenario had already been examined in detail between 2007 (after the case was reopened) and the 2009 trial of Ed Owens. The Davis County Attorney's Office and Woods Cross City Police Department had actively pursued such a link and had used many investigative techniques. No evidence was found to substantiate this possibility so Steve Strom was not charged as a codefendant of Ed Owens. The statement made by Ed Owens at his sentencing does not change the other known facts. The post-conviction interviews of Ed Owens have demonstrated that it would be a mockery of justice to use him as a trial witness of any kind, let alone the key witness.