

**^ OPELOUSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE**

From: The Opelousas Police Dept. (Chief Perry Gallow)

17 –Year-Old Cold Case Solved by DNA Match

On June 23, 1994 the Opelousas Police Department received a complaint in reference to an assault on West Grolee St in the city limits of Opelousas. Upon officers arrival they found a victim that had been tied up, brutally beaten and sexually assaulted. The victim’s vehicle had been stolen and she was left for dead. At the time of the assault, a description of a black male was given. Officers searched the area for the suspect but were unsuccessful. Investigators from the Opelousas Police Department continued working the case collecting evidence until the case went cold.



Joseph T. Savoy

In 2004, a man identified as Joseph T. Savoy of 918 Hopkins St. Lafayette La. was sent to Angola State Prison for a similar crime committed out of Lafayette La.

In 2008, under Chief Perry Gallow's administration the 1994 cold case was re-opened and assigned to Lt. Dwain Grimmett. During this period Savoy was identified as a possible suspect. Savoy was brought back to Opelousas from Angola and a DNA sample was obtained from him. The Acadiana Crime Lab confirmed that Savoy's DNA sample was a match to the cold case evidence submitted in 1994.

On July 26th Joseph T. Savoy went before Judge Ellis Daigle in the St. Landry 27th Judicial District Court for a Judge trial on the charges of Aggravated Kidnapping. After 17 years, almost two decades later the victim took the stand and testified to the events of that night and identified Joseph T. Savoy as the perpetrator. Joseph T. Savoy was found guilty before Judge Ellis Daigle on the charges of Aggravated Kidnapping. On August 11th Joseph T. Savoy will appear back in a St. Landry courtroom for sentencing. He could receive an additional Life Sentence on top of the 60 year sentence he is currently serving.

Anyone with information on any criminal activity within the city limits of Opelousas is asked to call the Opelousas Police Department at 337-948-2500. Contact Public Information Officer Darren Zachary to obtain any additional information @337-351-1930.