



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services

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[www.lasfm.org](http://www.lasfm.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### State Fire Marshal's Office Seeks New Information in 12-Year-Old Arson, Homicide

**LINCOLN PARISH-** On the 12-year anniversary of one of the longest, continually active criminal cases in State Fire Marshal's Office history, investigators are once again asking the public to come forward with information in the case.

In the early morning hours of May 5, 2007, firefighters were called to a residence on rural Woods Road in the Mitcham Peach Orchard area of Ruston. Though the response was quick, by the time firefighters arrived to the scene, the one-story, brick home had practically burned itself out.

Inside, the charred body of the homeowner, 25-year-old Ronia Washington, was discovered on what remained of her bed mattress.

SFM investigators determined the fire was set intentionally. Following an autopsy that showed no evidence of soot in her airway, the Lincoln Parish Coroner's Office ruled Washington's death a homicide.

For years, investigators have collaborated with multiple law enforcement agencies to follow leads, identify potential suspects and interview dozens of individuals with any information in the case. Unfortunately, none of the information has ever led to an arrest.

Investigators, and Washington's family, are hopeful that this anniversary will encourage more people to come forward with information about what happened to Ronia, and who is responsible for her death. The family is offering a \$25,000 reward for information that leads to an arrest and conviction in the case.

Tips can be submitted anonymously through the SFM's Arson Hotline at 1-800-256-5452 or the online tip form found at [lasfm.org](http://lasfm.org). Capt. Rusty Edwards can also be reached directly at 225-274-5450.

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