



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject : Palo Alto Police Department Conduct A Press Conference on Cold Case Homicide

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Palo Alto, CA -- February 6, 2015 -- The Palo Alto Police Department (PAPD) will hold a press conference today with the family and friends of Maria "Ria" Hsiao, who was murdered in a shooting on June 10, 2001, during a casual night out with friends. As part of the press conference, the PAPD and lead detective Zach Perron will be releasing a video today of family and friends that sheds light on who Maria was -- a bright, young woman who loved art, her community, and had dreams of becoming a digital special effects designer one day.

The video interviews Maria's dad, sister, and best friend, with each talking a little bit about who Maria was to them. It will paint an accurate portrayal of who Maria was as a person, as she is much more than just another unsolved case. Maria's love for children and her passion for art was what drove her family and friends to form the RIA Foundation, a non-profit organization that exists to support the dreams of aspiring artists by promoting art awareness, funding educational opportunities in the arts, and establishing art programs. Since its inception, the RIA Foundation has reached more than 15,000 children with Art4Kids and founded the annual Hopes and Dreams Art Exhibit in San Francisco's Union Square, where artists from around the Bay Area can share their art with the public.

"Ria would have turned 35 this coming March and it's bittersweet to imagine what kind of woman she would have become had she not been taken from us," said Andrea Hsiao, Maria's older sister. "Maybe she'd be a wife, a mother, a successful artist -- or all of the above. Sadly, we'll never know but what we can do to honor her life is to look back at the 21 wonderful years she had with us, and continue a passionate pursuit to find justice for her. We thank the PAPD and community for their continued support and hope that someone knows something and is willing to come forward to help us put together all the pieces of that night."

"Someone out there knows the details that can lead us to find justice for Ria," said Zach Perron, PAPD Lieutenant and lead detective on the case. "It is our hope that by giving you a glimpse into who she was, what she meant to her friends, family, and community, and letting the public learn more about how this tragic crime took an innocent and thriving life, we'll be able to solve this case and bring closure and peace to those that knew and loved Ria."

The \$100,000 cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons related to this crime still stands. Anyone with information should reach out to Lieutenant Zach Perron of the Palo Alto Police Department at 650-329-2413 or via the PAPD's Anonymous hotline at 650-329-2190.