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CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

TWO MEN HELD TO ANSWER IN MURDER OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS MAN

INDIO, CA. – Today, a Riverside County judge ordered two defendants to stand trial for the murder of a Desert Hot Springs man in August 2009.

Travis Martin Cody (DOB: 09/16/82) and Steven Arthur Banister (DOB: 09/05/81), are charged with special circumstance first-degree murder.

On August 10, 2009, Cody and Banister robbed and killed Edward Keeley at his home in the unincorporated area of Desert Hot Springs. Since 2001, Banister has seven prior felony convictions and has served multiple prison sentences. Banister was most recently released from prison just two weeks prior to the murder of Keeley.

Both Banister and Cody are eligible for the death penalty since the murder was committed during the commission of a robbery. District Attorney Rod Pacheco will determine whether or not to seek the death penalty after the completion of the death penalty review process.

The case, INF10000236, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Victoria Cameron. Both men are next scheduled to appear in court at 8:30 a.m., March 18, 2010, in Dept. 3S of the Larson Justice Center.

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