

Tri-State woman whose remains were found in 2018 has finally been identified

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*Using a combination of DNA, an X-ray and genealogy, they were able to identify her as **Patricia Goodwin**, 71 (WKRC)*

CINCINNATI (WKRC) — The mystery surrounding the identity of a woman found dead seven years ago at a North Avondale apartment complex has finally been solved, thanks to genealogical testing conducted by the Hamilton County Coroner's Office and federal agencies.

In May 2018, children playing near a playground discovered the remains of 71-year-old Patricia Goodwin, along with a rose placed on her grave on Glenwood Avenue in Avondale. Goodwin's family, who had been seeking closure, now has answers.

"Her brother passed away a month ago, still wondering what had happened to his sister, but at least her nephew knows now and the rest of the family," said Hamilton County Coroner Lakshmi Sammarco. "That's one of the things that we do in this office is try and bring that peace and closure to the families."

Goodwin, originally from Mason, was homeless at the time of her death, which was caused by a drug overdose. The FBI used investigative genetic genealogy to match DNA from Goodwin's chest X-rays to her son, who was in the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) database. He died just one year after his mother.

The coroner speculated that Goodwin's son might have attempted to bury her and left the rose on her shallow grave.

Sammarco noted that it is rare for remains to stay unidentified for such a long period. "They're not as common as you think. We only had a handful of cases, and we've been whittling those down pretty consistently. I think we only have 3 left in our database."

BCI assisted the FBI and the coroner's office through its LINK program, which uses DNA from families of missing persons to connect them to unidentified remains.

"For any families out there in the state of Ohio that haven't seen their loved one, that don't know that resource is out there, they can report their loved one to us, even if they've already reported it to a local agency. We can assist on that if they did report it. And they feel like their case isn't getting worked. They can still call us. We're here to help," said BCI Criminal Intelligence Analyst Jennifer Lester.

Families missing a loved one can learn more about the LINK program by calling 855-BCI-OHIO.