

HAYWARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Date of Release: February 1, 2012	Day: Wednesday	Original: <u> X </u> Update: <u> </u>
Type of Incident: Missing Person / Michaela Garecht		Case: 1988
Date Occurred: November 19 th , 1988	Day:	Time:
Location of Occurrence:		
Location of Arrest:		
ARRESTING OFFICER(S):		
INVESTIGATION OFFICER(S): Inspector R. Lampkin (510) 293- 7079		

As a result of a letter written by convicted murderer, Wesley Shermantine, an investigation is underway in San Joaquin County. A portion of Shermantine's letter indicated that Loren Herzog's photo of many years ago was similar in appearance to that of a composite sketch of the suspect in the abduction of Machaela Joy Garecht on November 19th, 1988. The Hayward Police Department has been in contact with the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office regarding their investigation. The Hayward Police Department is conscientious about the current investigation in San Joaquin County and will do nothing that might compromise their investigation. We will continue to be in contact with their agency and plan to pursue the potential connection between Shermantine's statements and the unsolved abduction of Michaela only when it is appropriate.

It is important to note that the investigation of Michaela's abduction has never grown cold in the minds of our investigators. As recent as January of 2012, investigators from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, spent one week with Hayward Police investigators to review and prioritize leads that continue to come in. It is our goal today, and has always been, to find the answers surrounding Michaela's disappearance and to be able to provide those answers to Michaela's mother, family and friends.

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT: LIEUTENANT ROGER KEENER (510) 293-7064