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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIAN SWEETEN PLEADS GUILTY TO MURDERING MICHAEL T. EHLERT AND ANTHONY M. GAINES AND IS SENTENCED TO FORTY YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON

Salt Lake City, Utah: Today, August 16, 2011, Christian Sweeten pleaded guilty to the aggravated murders of Michael T. Ehlert and Anthony M. Gaines. On September 22, 2008 in the area of 1000 West and 500 North in Salt Lake City, Sweeten engaged in a confrontation with the victims and shot and killed both of them. In pleading guilty, Sweeten admitted that he intentionally and knowingly caused the deaths of Mr. Ehlert and Mr. Gaines and that the homicides were committed incident to one act—or course of conduct—during which two persons were killed. Third Judicial District Judge Ann Boyden sentenced Sweeten to the Utah State Prison for a term of forty years to life. This means that Sweeten will be imprisoned for forty years before he can be even considered for parole and could spend the rest of his natural life in prison.

Mr. Ehlert's mother expresses her appreciation for the fair and just resolution of the matter. The Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office commends the Salt Lake City Police Department for the professional and diligent manner in which they solved this case.

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