District Attorney's Office
State of North Carolina
26th Prosecutorial District
Mecklenburg County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Murder case resolved by plea after jury fails to reach verdict

Vernon Steward, age 58, pled guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter in the death of Ms. Lisa Dorothy Blackmon. Steward entered his plea on Thursday, February 24, 2011, in courtroom 5350, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge, imposed a sentence of 108 to 139 months in prison. This sentence is in the aggravated range of North Carolina's statutory structured sentencing guidelines.

Ms. Blackmon was killed by Stewart on April 1, 2007, and was indicted by the Grand Jury for her murder the same month. Steward was originally tried for the murder of Ms. Blackmon in Mecklenburg County Superior Court in February 2009. The jury in that trial was unable to reach a unanimous verdict and a mistrial was declared by the presiding judge.

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