

# NEWS RELEASE

**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**May 5, 2011**

## **Ashanti Bess pleads guilty in the death of Anthony Davis**

CHARLOTTE, NC – Ashanti Bess, age 23, pled guilty to Second Degree Murder and Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon in the death of Mr. Anthony Davis, age 38. Bess entered pleas of guilty on Thursday, May 5, 2011, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. Judge Bell imposed an active sentence of 253 to 322 months in prison.

Mr. Davis was killed by the defendant on Friday, February 5, 2010. After failing to report to work the following Monday and failing to return phone calls from friends and family, officers went to Mr. Davis' home to check on his welfare. Officers discovered Mr. Davis deceased with a gunshot wound to the head in the master bedroom.

Bess, when interviewed by homicide detectives, admitted to shooting Mr. Davis. Bess then went on to tell detectives that he took the victim's laptop, projector, and DVD player to try to make it look like a robbery and left in the victim's car. The defendant claimed that he shot the victim because the victim made a sexual pass at him.

Prosecutors in this case met with Mr. Davis' family and they were a part of the decision to accept the defendant's offer to plead guilty and receive the prison sentence of approximately 21 to 26 years.

//End//



**Ashanti Bess**