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

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NEWS RELEASE

May 14, 2011

Defendant sentenced to life in prison for murder of 92-year-old woman

CHARLOTTE, NC – Gordon McMullen, age 50, pled guilty to First Degree Murder, Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, First Degree Kidnapping, and Felony Breaking and Entering in the death of Mildred P. Clontz, age 92.

Gordon McMullen

McMullen entered his guilty pleas on Thursday, May 12, 2011, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge. Judge Bridges imposed a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

On April 6, 2008, Ms. Clontz returned home from church around 7:00 p.m. and the defendant shoved her from behind and forced his way inside her house. In her call to 911 seconds after the attack, Ms. Clontz described how the defendant assaulted her and then stole her purse. The next morning, Ms. Clontz died from stab wounds inflicted by McMullen.

Despite the absence of witnesses or physical evidence, homicide detectives were led to McMullen by his use of the victim's credit cards and cell phone.

Ms. Clontz's family was present in the courtroom for the defendant's pleas of guilty and sentencing. Prosecutors in this case met with the family and they were involved in the decision to accept the defendant's offer to plead guilty and receive a life sentence.

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