

NEWS RELEASE

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Marion Gales convicted in cold case break-in, being a habitual felon

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted Marion Anthony Gales, 51, on Thursday, May 30, 2013, for a 2008 break-in. Gales entered his guilty plea before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, Superior Court Judge.

Gales pled guilty to 1) second-degree burglary, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual felon. Gales was sentenced to 120-153 months in prison. He has previous convictions that include larceny of a motor vehicle, first-degree burglary and voluntary manslaughter. Gales has also previously been convicted of being a habitual felon.

In June 2008, Gales broke into a Charlotte home overnight. The victim had just left his house and was gone for less than an hour. When the victim returned, he saw that his kitchen window was partially open, the window's glass was broken and items that had been on the counter were now on the floor. When officers responded to the home, they found a blood smear on the interior window frame. They collected samples of the blood and submitted it to the crime lab for DNA analysis. After the break-in, the victim found that many of his electronic items were missing from his home, including two digital cameras, a laptop, a CD changer, a portable DVD player and a camcorder.

In October 2011, detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Cold Case Unit were notified by the CMPD crime lab that the blood samples taken from the victim's home contained DNA matching that of Gales. His DNA had been taken and entered into a database when he was convicted of voluntary manslaughter. Detectives interviewed Gales, who was serving a sentence for voluntary manslaughter, and he willingly spoke with them. During the interview, Gales admitted to recognizing the location of the break-in and recalled bleeding while inside the house.

Gales is currently serving the prison sentence for the voluntary manslaughter conviction, and that sentence is projected to end in 2015. This sentence for the offenses related to the break-in will begin at that time.

Note: Almost all guilty pleas entered in criminal administrative court are the result of an agreed upon plea arrangement between the State and the defendant, which is then approved by the sentencing judge. For more information about why most cases must be resolved by plea negotiation instead of jury trial, please visit the "Understanding Criminal Court" section of the DA's website at www.charmeckda.com.

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Marion Gales

