

# NEWS RELEASE

**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**May 31, 2013**

## **Woman pleads guilty in death of ex-husband**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Carole LaRossa, 50, pled guilty today to voluntary manslaughter for the 2012 death of her ex-husband, James LaRossa. She was sentenced to 38-58 months in prison.

In April 2012, Carole LaRossa went to her ex-husband's apartment on Dianthus Court in Charlotte to pick up food for James LaRossa's dog, which she had agreed to watch while he played golf the next day with friends. Carole LaRossa told police that James LaRossa became upset when she told him that he needed to remove the remainder of his personal items from the house they once shared. She said that he became physically aggressive, sexually assaulted her and poked her breasts with a knife while threatening her. She reacted by hitting him with a wine glass, causing him to drop the knife. She then picked up the knife and stabbed him twice in the chest. After he fell, she continued to stab him in the back several times before calling 911. She told police she was afraid he would get back up and harm her.



**Carole LaRossa**

Both the victim and the defendant have a history of substance abuse. The defendant said her ex-husband was highly intoxicated at the time of the incident. Unusually, however, the Medical Examiner's Office and the toxicologist cannot pinpoint James LaRossa's blood alcohol content. They could only conclude that his blood alcohol content was between .02 and .34. Tests showed Carole LaRossa did not have any alcohol in her blood at the time.

Court records substantiate a history of domestic violence between the couple, and a judge previously found that James LaRossa had assaulted Carole LaRossa. Despite claims that the victim could not have assaulted someone because he was disabled, evidence discovered in the investigation suggests otherwise concerning his physical abilities.

During the investigation, Carole LaRossa gave police inconsistent statements but always insisted that she acted in self-defense.

At trial, to overcome the defendant's claim of self-defense and prove murder, the State would be required to prove that Carole LaRossa did not act in self-defense. There are no witnesses to the events other than the defendant, and the physical and scientific evidence do not disprove her version of events, making it impossible to overcome that defense. The District Attorney's Office thoroughly reviewed all of the evidence in the case and concluded that the most likely outcome of this case at trial would be a conviction of voluntary manslaughter.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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