

# NEWS RELEASE

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**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**June 3, 2011**

## **Two murderers plead guilty**

CHARLOTTE, NC – On June 2, 2011, Eddie Bernard Ellison, 42, pled guilty to Second Degree Murder, Felony Flee to Elude Arrest, Felony Hit and Run, Failure to Stop for Blue Light or Siren, Resisting a Public Officer, and Carrying a Concealed Weapon. Ellison appeared in the Mecklenburg County Courthouse in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. Ellison was sentenced to 164-206 months in prison.

On March 20, 2010, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol (NCSHP) was conducting a driver license checkpoint on 30<sup>th</sup> Street at approximately 10:00 p.m. A NCSHP Trooper saw a gold Cadillac, driven by Ellison, turn to avoid the checkpoint. NCSHP Troopers attempted to stop the vehicle, but Ellison failed to pull over. Ellison crossed the centerline to avoid traffic and headed toward Parkwood Avenue. When he entered the intersection he did not have the right of way, as his light was red. Latia Winchester, age 26, was driving a Chevy Impala; she entered the intersection through a green light, at the same time as Ellison. As Ms. Winchester crossed the intersection, her vehicle was struck by the Cadillac on the right side. As a result of the collision, Ms. Winchester was ejected from her vehicle and died on the scene.

Ellison exited his Cadillac and ran, but was apprehended by the NCSHP Troopers. The crash reconstruction showed that Ellison was traveling at 63 m.p.h. and that Ms. Winchester was traveling at 37 m.p.h. The posted speed limit was 35 m.p.h. Neither Ellison nor Ms. Winchester were under the influence of alcohol.

In the same courtroom on June 2, Gabrielle Michaux, 18, pled guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter and received a sentence of 80-105 months in prison. That is the maximum possible sentence she could receive under the North Carolina structured sentencing guidelines.

On November 21, 2009, at approximately 5:00 p.m., police, medic and fire responded to a call for service at 2921 Royston Road in reference to one person stabbed. Medic pronounced the victim, Kevin Johnson, deceased on scene.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's investigation led to the arrest of the defendant, Michaux, for the murder of Mr. Kevin Johnson. Detectives interviewed Michaux and her mother who both indicated that a physical altercation began between Michaux and the victim after Michaux accidentally sat on his glasses. They reported that, during the fight, Mr. Johnson assaulted Michaux and pulled out some of her hair.

Michaux admitted that during the fight she went to the kitchen and retrieved a knife; she then proceeded to stab Mr. Johnson. According to the Medical Examiner, Mr. Johnson was stabbed numerous times about his body.

Michaux killed Mr. Johnson in anger and during a sudden mutual fight, and therefore under North Carolina law she is guilty 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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