

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

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NEWS RELEASE

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III**
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Man pleads guilty to second-degree murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Yesterday, Bricard Washington pled guilty to second-degree murder when he was called for trial for the 2020 shooting death of 27-year-old Katie Eckard. The Honorable Matt J. Osman, Superior Court Judge, was presiding in courtroom 5370.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team called Bricard Washington, 30, for trial for first-degree murder. After Washington pled guilty to second-degree murder, Judge Osman sentenced him to 233-292 months in prison.

At approximately 5:00 p.m. on July 21, 2020, Katie Eckard and her friends had just gotten money at an ATM in a shopping center off W. Sugar Creek Rd. After they parked the car in the shopping center parking lot, Bricard Washington and a juvenile co-defendant approached the vehicle while brandishing firearms and demanded money from Eckard and her friends. Eckard and one of her friends both told them they didn't have any money. The juvenile co-defendant then fired one shot towards the backseat of the vehicle where Eckard was sitting, then he and Washington ran to a white Lexus driven by Marquez Williamson. Witnesses reported seeing the white Lexus flee the scene. Eckard was struck just below her collarbone. She was transported to the hospital where she succumbed to her injuries. Officers with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department located the white Lexus, occupied by all three defendants, a short time later.

Co-defendant Marquez Williamson was previously convicted of charges related to these crimes. The juvenile co-defendant died prior to his case being disposed.

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