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QUEENS MAN CONVICTED OF MURDER
IN STABBING DEATH OF ESTRANGED EX-GIRLFRIEND
Defendant Faces Up to 25 Years to Life in Prison at Sentencing

Chief Assistant John M. Ryan, on behalf of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, announced today that a Jamaica resident has been convicted at trial of murder in the October 2016 stabbing death of his ex-girlfriend, whose bloodied body was discovered inside of her car days after she had been reported missing.

Chief Assistant Ryan said, "The victim in this case was found stabbed to death inside of her parked car. This was a tragic end for a woman who was victimized by someone who supposedly professed to love her. After weighing all the evidence, a jury rendered a guilty verdict and the defendant now faces the possibility of spending the rest of his life locked away in prison."

The District Attorney's Office identified the defendant as Qwantrell Gilliam, 43, of 161 Place in Jamaica, Queens. Following a nearly three-week-long trial, a jury convicted the defendant of second-degree murder, tampering with physical evidence and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. Queens Supreme Court Justice Kenneth C. Holder, who presided at trial, set sentencing for April 3, 2019, at which time the defendant faces up to 25 years to life in prison on the murder conviction, plus additional time for tampering with physical evidence.

According to trial testimony, at approximately 2:20 p.m. on October 31, 2016, detectives from the 113th precinct - acting on a missing person's report - discovered the body of 43-year-old Dayo Corley inside of her parked car in the vicinity of 122nd Avenue and Lakeview Lane. In Ms. Corley's last moments she was brutally attacked, suffering multiple stab wounds and compression injuries to her neck and head. There was blood splattered on the floor of the vehicle as well as in the driver's seat, where Ms. Corley's body was discovered. The victim's cause of death was homicidal violence including stab wounds to the neck.

Continuing, according to trial records, Ms. Corley was last seen shortly before 1:45 a.m. on October 29, 2016, leaving a hair salon on Merrick Boulevard. Phone activity then shows her traveling to the vicinity of Lakeview Lane and 122nd Avenue after speaking to the defendant. Surveillance cameras captured Gilliam walking near 122nd Avenue, where the victim's car was recovered. The defendant is seen walking towards Lakeview Lane, shortly after 1:50 a.m. At approximately 2:30 a.m., Gilliam is seen again on surveillance video holding a knife, opening a bottle and pouring liquid over his hands and walking towards a nearby metal trash can, disposing of the murder weapon.

Furthermore, said Chief ADA Ryan, according to several witnesses who testified in court, Gilliam had been harassing Ms. Corley after their June 2016 break up via cell phone and he had destroyed property belonging to her in the weeks prior to the murder.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Brian W. Hughes, of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad A. Leventhal, Bureau Chief, and John W. Kosinski, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.