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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Guilty plea in Duluth murder case

A 32-year-old Duluth woman today admitted to her role in the 2012 murder of a man who was stabbed at his Central Hillside apartment.

Joella Lee Tucker pleaded guilty to an amended charge of aiding and abetting second-degree murder in connection with the Dec. 21, 2012 death of Kevin Tyman. She had been charged with conspiracy to commit second-degree murder.

Tucker's co-defendant, Raymond Charles Weeks, 42, of Two Harbors, is charged with intentional second-degree murder. Weeks is accused of stabbing Tyman, who died that evening in a Duluth hospital after sustaining a single stab wound that lacerated his liver. Weeks' case remains pending.

In return for her guilty plea before 6th Judicial District Judge Mark Munger, Tucker's level of involvement in the matter will not be considered by any grand jury that may be convened.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant St. Louis County Attorneys Kristen Swanson and Chris Pinkert. While the defense is free to argue for a shorter prison sentence, the anticipated guideline sentence is 10 years, 10 months.

Munger ordered a pre-sentence investigation of Tucker's background. A sentencing date has not been scheduled.

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