



OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

MARK S. RUBIN COUNTY ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE

June 4, 2015

CONTACT: Mark Stodghill, County Attorney's Office
St. Louis County Courthouse
Duluth, MN 218-726-2035

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Virginia man arraigned in cold case murder

The Iron Range man accused of slaying an 83-year-old woman in her Virginia home nearly 28 years ago was arraigned today on a charge of intentional second-degree murder, St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin said.

Bruce Wayne Cameron, 44, appeared before Judge Gary Pagliaccetti in State District Court in Virginia. The defendant is accused of murdering Leona Mary Maslowski. The victim's body was found in her Virginia duplex by a friend on Oct. 5, 1987. The defendant was 16 years old at the time.

An autopsy revealed that Mrs. Maslowski died from stab wounds, multiple blunt wounds to the head, and strangulation. One of the stab wounds penetrated the right side of her heart.

The court set bail at one million dollars. Cameron is being held in the St. Louis County Jail. His next hearing is scheduled for June 17th. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant St. Louis County Attorney Brian Simonson.

The case against the defendant was built as the result of a cold case investigation conducted by the Virginia Police Department and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

"Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Leona Maslowski," Rubin said. "Justice has been a long time in the making in this case, but we are blessed to live in a community with law enforcement officers who make a tenacious commitment to following through on criminal investigations and seeing to it that perpetrators are brought to justice. This case was solved due to the excellent work of Chief Dennis Benz and the Virginia Police Department, and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Special Agents and Lab Analysts."

Rubin noted that even though the defendant was a juvenile when the offense was committed, under the law juvenile court lost jurisdiction upon the defendant's 21st birthday. And since there is no statute of limitations for murder, Cameron has been charged as an adult.

The investigation revealed that Cameron attended a party hosted by a resident of upper floor apartment of the duplex the night before Mrs. Maslowski's body was found.

Virginia police and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) continued to investigate the case and gathered evidence over the years. Additional items were submitted to the BCA lab for testing. Eventually two fingerprints located on a bedroom door were identified as belonging to Cameron.

Investigators with the BCA and Virginia police interviewed Cameron in April. The defendant initially denied being in the room where the victim's body was found. On Tuesday, two BCA special agents confronted Cameron with the physical evidence against him.

The defendant admitted that he was most likely drunk that night. He said he came down the back stairwell to Mrs. Maslowski's residence, the door was not locked and he went into the kitchen looking for alcohol to drink. The woman confronted him. He thought she was moving toward a telephone. He said he punched her in the face, pushed her down, continued to hit her with an object from her residence and possibly choked her.

Cameron said he didn't know if a knife was involved, but that all of her injuries would have been caused by him. He said she was lying on the floor when he left and that he didn't steal anything.

A copy of the criminal complaint accompanies this release.

###

