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March 12, 2020

Christopher Alexander Williamson pleads guilty for causing the death of Nancy Bergeson

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 29-year-old Christopher Alexander Williamson – the person responsible for killing Nancy Bergeson, a federal public defender, who lived in the Bridlemile neighborhood of Southwest Portland – received a 15 year prison sentence.

The family of Ms. Bergeson is in full support of the outcome of this case. They have been heavily involved, and had a significant role, in all aspects of the pretrial negotiations that occurred in this case. In light of credible medical evidence that Mr. Williamson’s life expectancy is less than 10 years due to a genetic disorder, the family of Ms. Bergeson strongly supports the 15 year prison sentence.

“Nancy Bergeson is remembered as a devoted mother, a passionate defense attorney and a trusted friend to many. We know Nancy’s enthusiasm and passion continues to inspire those who knew her,” said Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill. “I thank and acknowledge all of the individuals who worked on this case. These skilled investigators, crime scene technicians, forensic and medical experts were united in their determination to solve this case.”

Williamson pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter in the first degree and one count of burglary in the first degree.

By pleading guilty, Williamson admitted that on November 24, 2009 he unlawfully entered Ms. Bergeson’s residence with the intent to commit the crime of theft. He also admitted to killing Ms. Bergeson.

This investigation started on November 24, 2009 at approximately 3 p.m. when Ms. Bergeson was found deceased in the 4100-block of Southwest Hamilton Street in Portland, Oregon.

An autopsy performed by the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office revealed that Ms. Bergeson died of homicidal violence.

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This case was investigated by the Portland Police Bureau's Homicide Detail. Detective Michele Michaels was the lead investigator.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office recognizes the Portland Police Bureau, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon, the Washington County Sheriff's Office, the Linn County District Attorney's Office and the Washington County District Attorney's Office for their cooperation and dedicated efforts investigating this case.

This case was litigated by Multnomah County Chief Deputy District Attorney Don Rees and Deputy District Attorney Todd Jackson.

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