



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

### **Laurel Man Pleads Guilty to Second-Degree Murder in a 40-Year-Old Cold Case**

Howard County, MD (July 12, 2022) – Howard Jackson Bradberry, age 64, of Montgomery Street, entered an Alford plea today to a charge of second-degree murder in a long-unsolved kidnapping case dating back to the early 80's.

On March 29, 1982, Laney Lee McGadney, age 28, left her apartment in Columbia to walk to a grocery store in the Owen Brown Village Center. Witnesses described seeing McGadney being abducted as she walked along Oakland Mills Road. Her body was discovered hours later in a vacant lot, now known as Water Lily Way. McGadney, a mother of four children, had been raped and stabbed to death.

At the time of the incident, police collected evidence from the scene and conducted a lengthy investigation but were unable to identify the person who committed the crime. Since then, cold case investigators from the Howard County Police Department have revisited the evidence to try and identify any new leads. In early 2021, DNA results performed on items discarded at the scene linked Bradberry to the crime.

On May 25, 2021, Bradberry was arrested at his home and charged with first- and second-degree murder, first- and second-degree rape, and kidnapping.

"I'd like to thank the cold case investigators from Howard County Police, the crime lab and our prosecutors for the tremendous work they did on this case," said State's Attorney Rich Gibson. "For four decades, no one was held responsible for the brutal and senseless killing of a young woman whose life was cut short by the violent actions of the defendant. We hope that today's guilty plea provides some closure to the McGadney family who has had to wait an inordinate amount of time for justice for their loved one."

Bradberry will be sentenced on December 1, 2022. He could face up to 25 years of active incarceration.

This case was prosecuted by Chief of Juvenile Division Danielle Duclaux and Assistant State's Attorney Natasha Blount.

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