



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

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For Immediate Release:

### **Laurel Man Sentenced to 25 years for Second Degree Murder in 40-Year-Old Cold Case**

Howard County, MD (January 5, 2023) – Howard Jackson Bradberry, Jr., age 64, was sentenced today by Howard County Circuit Court Judge Richard Bernhardt to 25 years in prison. Bradberry entered an Alford plea on July 12, 2022 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.

“The brutal murder of Laney Lee McGadney fractured her family beyond repair and for 40 years there were very little leads in the case with no one being held responsible for her senseless killing,” said State’s Attorney Rich Gibson. “I want to thank Howard County police and our prosecutors for working so diligently on this case. We know today’s sentencing cannot bring back the matriarch of this family, but we do hope it provides some much-needed closure for her 4 kids, 22 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren knowing Bradberry will spend the rest of his life in prison for the innocent life he took and heinous crime he committed.”

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

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