

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney**

September 22, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Calli Marianetti
Monroe County District Attorney's Office
47 South Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 753-4532

Jury Finds James McKnight Guilty of Murder in the 2nd Degree

Rochester, NY- Thursday, September 22, 2022, a Monroe County Jury convicted 70-year-old James McKnight of Murder in the Second Degree for the murder of Cathy Heinrich on or about and between March 14, 2020, and March 17, 2020.

On March 22, 2020, Rochester Police Officers responded to the report of a deceased woman on St. Paul Street. Upon arrival, they found 57-year-old Cathy Heinrich deceased with multiple stab wounds. The Rochester Police Department identified James McKnight, who had a prior domestic relationship with Cathy Heinrich, as the assailant. He was arrested for her murder the following month.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Amanda Balling, Deputy Chief of the Special Victims Unit.

“Cathy Heinrich was stabbed over thirty times and suffered a brutal and terrible death,” said Assistant District Attorney Amanda Balling. “I want to thank the Rochester Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Monroe County Crime Lab for their thorough investigation that led to today’s conviction. Cathy’s friends, family, and neighbors truly came together to support their loved one and it is our hope that they can find justice in today’s verdict.”

“The Monroe County District Attorney’s Office offers our deepest sympathies to the friends and family of Cathy Heinrich,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Every homicide that comes through our office is difficult, but murders involving domestic violence are especially heartbreaking. If you or somebody you know is struggling in a domestic violence situation, we urge you to call law enforcement or Willow Domestic Violence Center.”

James McKnight will be sentenced on November 1, 2022, in front of Monroe County Court Judge Randall.

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