



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 11, 2011

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District Man Pleads Guilty to Manslaughter Charge In June 2009 Stabbing

WASHINGTON - Bernard Gayles, 40, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty today to a charge of voluntary manslaughter while armed in connection with the June 2009 stabbing death of another man in Southeast Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Gayles pled guilty in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and will be sentenced on April 19, 2011, by the Honorable Judge Lynn Leibovitz. He faces up to 30 years in prison.

The victim, Nathaniel Hall, 54, had previously been incarcerated and, for a brief period in 2009, he was residing with a woman in an apartment in the 800 block of Barnaby Street SE. Sometime prior to June 13, 2009, Hall was told to leave the apartment because of his jail past. That day, about 5:15 p.m., Gayles knocked on the apartment door, angry at Hall. He then stabbed Hall multiple times before leaving. Hall was subsequently pronounced dead.

Hall's remains were transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Maryland. The cause of death was determined to be multiple stab wounds.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detectives Joshua Branson, Norma Horne, James Wilson, Anthony Green, and Gus Giannakoulis, of the Violent Crime Branch, along with Mobile Crime Officer Ronald Royster. He also commended Paralegal Specialist Kelly Margaret Blakeney and Victim Witness Advocate Meshall Thomas. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Edward Burley and Glenn Kirschner, who investigated and indicted the case and Charles W. Cobb, who is prosecuting the case and handled today's guilty plea.

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