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Press Release

Not Guilty Plea in Brookline Domestic Violence Manslaughter

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A Brookline woman pleaded not guilty to manslaughter at her Norfolk Superior Court arraignment on Friday, March 19, 2021, in the January 2020 death of her ex-husband, Andrew Savitz, in his Brookline home, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Assistant Norfolk District Attorney Jennifer C. Blair asked Judge Brian Davis to impose \$20,000 cash bail on Penelope McGee, 54, with a variety of conditions, including that she not leave the state without permission, remain alcohol free with testing, and have no contact with certain parties in the case. Judge Davis imposed \$2,500 cash bail, stay away orders, and ordered McGee to remain alcohol free, surrender her passport, and comply with other conditions if she is released.

McGee had previously entered a plea of not guilty to Brookline District Court assault charges in the incident before her February indictment.

"The allegations are that the defendant went to the home of her ex-husband, Andrew Savitz, who was 66 at the time, on the night of January 28, 2020, after receiving an email from his brother about evicting her from her residence," District Attorney Morrissey said.

Court documents on file in Norfolk Superior Court state that the defendant and a family member who was in the home at the time give different versions of the events that followed. The family member heard "Mr. Savitz, repeatedly asking [the defendant] to leave the house. When she went downstairs to see what was going on, [she] saw the defendant slapping the victim in the face and chest and pushing and shoving him. [She] indicated that she called 911 and while she was on the phone with the dispatcher the victim collapsed and fell to the ground," according to the Commonwealth's Statement of the Case filed at arraignment.

Mr. Savitz was transported to Beth Israel Hospital and pronounced deceased shortly after midnight. According to court documents: "An autopsy was performed at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner on January 30, 2020. Dr. Rebecca Dedrick performed the autopsy and discovered that the victim had suffered from diabetes mellitus as well as hypertensive, atherosclerotic and valvular cardiovascular disease. The victim had also experienced a stroke a few months prior to this incident. Given the condition of the victim's health and the facts of the incident that occurred, Dr. Deidrick opined that the cause of death was Cardiac Dysrhythmia following an altercation in a person with Hypertensive and Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes Mellitus."

Judge Davis ordered the defendant to return May 6, 2021 for pre-trial conference.