



Media Release:

February 2, 2022

Contacts:

Michael Leffler, Michael.Leffler@indy.gov

Destiny Burgos, Destiny.Burgos@indy.gov

Man pleads guilty to July 2020 murder of James Hayden

Ronald Collins to receive a 45-year prison sentence for the murder of a long-time friend

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced that a man has pleaded guilty for his role in the July 1, 2020 murder of James Hayden. Ronald Collins has pleaded guilty to Murder and under the terms of the agreement, Collins will receive a 45-year sentence in the Indiana Department of Correction.

During a welfare check, Police discovered Hayden's body in the back bedroom of his home on the eastside. Duct tape and electrical wiring restrained the victim's body, and there were severe injuries to his neck.

Inside the residence, there were obvious signs of an altercation, including several broken items throughout the home, blood splatter on the walls, and a bloody serrated knife that was found in the kitchen sink.

Throughout the investigation, witnesses noted that Collins had recently been driving Hayden's truck and had several items that belonged to the victim. In an interview with detectives, Collins admitted to staying at Hayden's residence and that they had been friends since he was 13-years-old.

A sentencing hearing has been set for March 9 at 1:30 p.m. in Criminal Court 21.