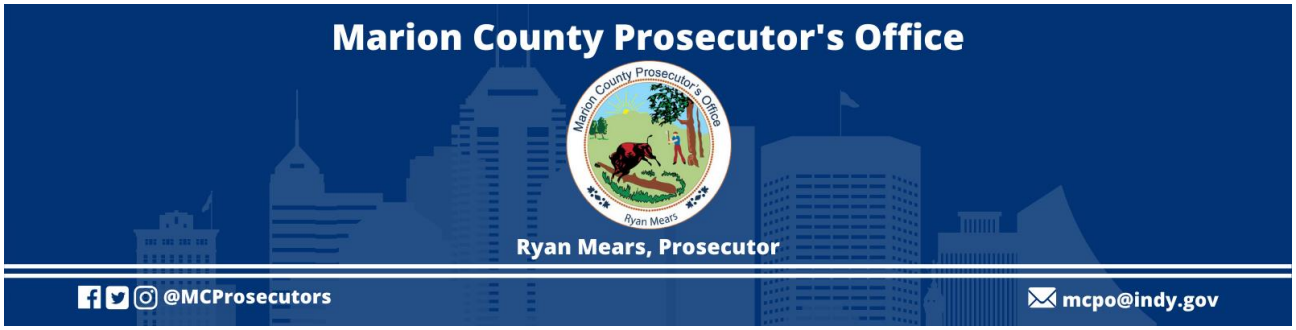


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Man sentenced to 55 years for 2020 murder of Sara Blackwood

Johnny Viverette murdered Blackwood as she walked home from work

Indianapolis, Ind.— Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced that Johnny Viverette has been sentenced to 55 years for the murder of Sara Blackwood. Viverette pleaded guilty to Murder. Pursuant to the agreement, Viverette received a 55-year sentence with 45 years served in the Indiana Department of Correction, followed by two years of probation. Blackwood was shot and killed as she was walking home from work on the evening of October 11, 2020.

Blackwood was killed in the 2600 block of East Washington Street, near her place of employment. Investigators were able to identify Viverette as a suspect based on video footage from nearby businesses.

“Sara Blackwood’s life was tragically cut short while simply walking home from work. She was beloved by coworkers and friends for her thoughtful and curious spirit,” Prosecutor Mears said. “We hope that this resolution brings closure to Sara Blackwood’s family, friends and all those affected by her death.”

Individuals experiencing fear, trauma and other concerns as a result of this incident are encouraged to seek assistance. In Indianapolis, Gender Nexus (www.gendernexus.org) and Indiana Youth Group for individuals 21 and under (www.indianayouthgroup.org or 317-541-8726) provide support services to the local community. For immediate assistance, the national 24/7 hotlines are available through the Trans Lifeline (1-877-565-8860) and the Trevor Lifeline for individuals 25 years old and under (1-866-488-7386 or text the word START to 678678).

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