



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Galloway Guilty in Needham Murder

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A Norfolk Superior Court jury has found 51-year old Tammie Galloway guilty of the 2017 murder of her Needham neighbor, Laura Shifrina, in the elderly woman's home, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Norfolk Superior Court Judge Douglas H. Wilkins ordered Galloway held overnight and returned to court tomorrow morning for sentencing. Found guilty of murder in the first degree, Galloway faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without the chance of parole, Morrissey said.

"Needham Police were called to Ms. Shifrina's Linden Street home at roughly 11 p.m. on May 31, 2017 after the victim's daughter had discovered her dead of multiple stab wounds. Shifrina, who was a retired scientist, had failed to attend an event that evening," District Attorney Morrissey said. "When she saw her mother, she called her own son who then called 911."

Shifrina had been last seen alive on May 28, 2017. Numerous items were missing from the apartment, which was adjacent to Galloway's own apartment in the complex, Morrissey said. "Shifrina was also believed to have had some cash savings in the apartment, and her 2011 red Ford Fiesta was missing."

The car was eventually found in the 1800 block of Dorchester Avenue, with the keys in the ignition and a strong smell of bleach in the interior. Needham and Massachusetts State Police detectives working together would eventually collect video showing Galloway with a relative possessing a bottle of bleach on the morning of May 29 in the vicinity of the car.

Galloway was also found guilty of armed robbery and larceny of the Ford Fiesta.

"By all accounts, Laura Shifrina lived an extraordinary life as a scientist, an émigré from Russia, a mother and a grandmother," District Attorney Morrissey said. "No verdict can return her to her loved ones, but I am pleased for the family that this jury saw the evidence as it was and returned a just verdict."

The case was prosecuted for the Commonwealth by Assistant District Attorney Greg Connor, second-seated by ADA Phil Burr and ADA Mike McGee; Victim/Witness Advocate on the case was Ericka Connolly. "The team from the District Attorney's office had excellent cooperation from the Needham Police Department, and the case benefitted greatly from the hard work of Needham Detective Brian Gallerani and State Police Detective David DiCicco."

Galloway was represented by Attorney Elliot Levine.