



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Not Guilty Plea at Braintree murder arraignment

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The Marshfield man accused of murdering his former neighbor, a well-known Braintree nurse and public health official, has entered a plea of not guilty to the charges against him in his arraignment by Quincy District Court Judge Mark Coven this morning, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Assistant District Attorney Greg Connor asked Coven to hold Robert Bonang, 61, of 9 Castle Green, Apt. 1, Marshfield, Mass., without bail on the charges of murder, two counts of carrying a firearm without a license (rifle and pistol), discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling, and unlawful possession of ammunition.

ADA Connor told Judge Coven that a civilian witness had seen a man dressed as a "fake UPS" delivery person, and holding a box, walk to 64 Howie Street, the residence of Laurie Melchionda, and ring the bell, causing Melchionda to come to the door where she was shot and killed.

Attorney James Budreau asked Judge Coven to order Bonang held without bail, but "without prejudice," which means the issue of bail could be revisited later. Bonang confirmed to Judge Coven that he intended to hire private counsel.

The Court ordered Bonang held without bail and to return to court July 17th for further proceedings.

"I want to thank Braintree Police and Chief Mark Dubois for their professionalism and help in this investigation, as well as the Massachusetts State Police Crime Scene Services and other special sections who have been instrumental," District Attorney Morrissey said. "We continue to investigate and develop information."

All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.