

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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GUILTY PLEA – AGAIN – IN 2005 MURDER OF AURORA WOMAN AURORA MAN AGREES TO SAME SENTENCE HE ACCEPTED IN 2009

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An Aurora man has again pleaded guilty to his role in a murder he committed as a juvenile – the Halloween 2005 shooting death of an Aurora woman who was missing for nearly two months before her decomposed body was discovered.

Gareng P. Deng, 23 (d.o.b. 10-6-1991), formerly of the 2700 block of Cross Creek Court, Aurora, today agreed to a sentence of 35 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections in exchange for a guilty plea to first-degree murder in the October 2005 murder of 47-year-old Marilyn Bethell of Aurora. Associate Judge Thomas Stanfa accepted the plea.

Deng was 14 years old at the time of the murder.

Deng originally pleaded guilty May 8, 2009, to the same terms. Deng later attempted to withdraw his guilty plea but a trial court judge rejected his request. Deng appealed, and in June 2013 the Illinois Appellate Court Second District gave him the opportunity to withdraw the guilty plea.

Deng killed Miss Bethell on Oct. 30, 2005. Miss Bethell was reported missing from her DuPage County home in the 2500 block of Quail Court on the far north side of Aurora on Oct. 31, 2005. Miss Bethell's decomposed body was found Dec. 26, 2005, in a wooded area in unincorporated Kane County in the vicinity of Butterfield and Kirk roads in Batavia Township.

Based on Illinois law, Deng must serve 100 percent of the sentence. Deng receives credit for at least 2,907 days served in the Kane County jail and in prison since he was taken into custody March 23, 2007.

Kane County Assistant State's Attorney Jody Gleason and the DuPage County Assistant State's Attorney Joe Ruggiero jointly prosecuted the case.

"Although this case was returned to us 20 months ago and although this is the same plea that was made six years ago, we're grateful to Marilyn Bethel's family for their support throughout this process," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said.