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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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On September 23, 2010, Melanie Blake, 37, of Orleans, pleaded guilty to attempted second degree murder and causing great bodily injury to the victim, Gabrielle Schleuter, a.k.a Gabrielle Drake, also of Orleans. The change of plea entered on the third day of trial. The Honorable Timothy Cissna presided.

Ms. Blake was arrested on June 25, 2010, after Sheriff's deputies responded to a 9-1-1 call from a friend of Ms. Schleuter, indicating that Ms. Schleuter was the victim of multiple stab wounds. When Sheriff's deputies arrived to assist Ms. Schleuter, Ms. Schleuter told them that Melanie Blake attacked her with a knife. The attack, according to Ms. Schleuter, occurred at Melanie Blake's residence and started after Ms. Blake accused Ms. Schleuter of being an informant for law enforcement. When deputies responded to Ms. Blake's residence, they forced entry and arrested Ms. Blake. Deputies also discovered numerous blood stains, some of which appeared to have been wiped with a cleaning agent.

At sentencing, Ms. Blake faces up to 12 years in the Department of Corrections.

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