

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

May 31, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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David Johnson Sentenced to 30 Years for the Death of Anthony Lawson

Rochester, NY- On Friday, May 31, 2019, 18-year-old David Johnson was sentenced by Monroe County Court Judge Douglas Randall to 30 years in the New York State Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to one count of Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for the death of Anthony Lawson. The defendant also pled guilty to Robbery in the 1st Degree for an incident which occurred on the same day.

On September 24, 2018, David Johnson approached Anthony Lawson and shot him multiple times at 445 Lyell Avenue, near Child Street in the City of Rochester. Mr. Lawson was discovered by a Rochester Police Officer around 6:30 p.m. and first aid was administered. Mr. Lawson was pronounced dead at Strong Memorial Hospital at 7:30 p.m. David Johnson was arrested by the Rochester Police Department. He was on probation for a prior robbery conviction.

The case was prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles.

“Today’s sentence closes the chapter in the trial of David Johnson,” said First Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles. “The friends and family can continue to mourn Anthony Lawson while knowing his murderer has been met with justice. Thank you to the Rochester Police Department who worked diligently on this investigation.”

“On behalf of the Monroe County District’s Office, we extend our deepest sympathies to the friends and family of Anthony Lawson,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Based on his plea agreement, we believe that David Johnson is spending a fair and just amount of time away from the community in New York State Department of Corrections, where he will hopefully learn the value of freedom and human life over the next thirty years.”

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