

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

April 12, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**David Johnson Pleads Guilty to Manslaughter in the First Degree and
Robbery in the First Degree for the Death of Anthony Lawson**

Rochester, NY- On Friday, April 12, 2019, 17-year-old David Johnson pled 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. As a result of his plea, David Johnson will serve 30 years in the New York State Department of Corrections. He will not be granted Youthful Offender status.

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.

“I want to thank the Rochester Police Department for their investigation into this incident,” said First Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles. “The defendant did not consider the life of Anthony Lawson, or the lasting effects his death has had on his friends and family. With this admission of guilt, it is the hope of the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office that Anthony’s family can have some peace of mind as they continue to heal from the loss of their loved one.”

“Here at the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office, we prioritize justice above all else,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “We extend our deepest sympathy to the friends and family of Anthony Lawson. David Johnson will now be spending the remainder of his youth in the New York State Department of Corrections and will hopefully learn the value of freedom and human life.”

David Johnson will be sentenced on May 31, 2019, in front of County Court Judge Randall.