

**News Release from  
The Honorable Sandra Doorley  
Monroe County District Attorney**

December 8, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Joshua Williams Sentenced to 25 Years to Life**

Rochester, NY- Friday, December 8, 2023, New York State Supreme Court Justice Walsh sentenced 30-year-old Joshua Williams to 25 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections. Williams was previously convicted by a jury of Murder in the Second Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree for the murder of Willie Wofford.

On July 5, 2022, at approximately 2:38AM, Rochester Police Officers were called for multiple gunshots on North Clinton Avenue in the City of Rochester. Due to the chaotic scene, an ambulance was unable to get to the victim. Rochester Police Officers immediately began performing life-saving measures on Willie Wofford who had been shot five times, before he was transported by a patrol car to Strong Memorial Hospital. He died from his injuries at the hospital.

After a thorough investigation by the Rochester Police Department, Joshua Williams was identified as the assailant responsible for Willie Wofford's murder. Following the shooting, he fled the state and was arrested in North Charleston, South Carolina. The Rochester Police Department was assisted by the United States Marshal Task Force Charleston County Officers.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau, and Senior Assistant District Attorney Emily Chisholm, also of the Major Felony Bureau.

"The murder of Willie Wofford was senseless, violent, and completely unnecessary," said Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler. "I want to thank the Rochester Police Department for their attempts at life-saving measures for the victim and their thorough investigation that resulted in the identification and apprehension of Joshua Williams. I also want to thank the United States Marshals Task Force for his apprehension. I am content that one more dangerous individual is unable to further promote violence in our community."

"Joshua Williams violently killed Willie Wofford and risked the lives of many more," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "Joshua Williams incited violence on that early July morning that resulted in Willie Wofford's murder. He is a violent individual who is best served in the New York State Department of Corrections. Although they will never see their loved one again, it is the hope of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office that the friends and family of Willie Wofford feel justice in today's life sentence and they can continue to mourn outside the criminal justice system."

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