

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Samuel Mitchell Convicted of Murder

Rochester, NY- Today, a Monroe County jury convicted Samuel Mitchell, 31, of Murder in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree for his role in the June 9, 2012 shooting death of 29 year old Stephen Cobb. In the afternoon hours on that date, Mitchell approached Cobb as Cobb waited in line at a convenience store on the corner of West Main and King Streets and fired a single shot at Cobb from under 5 feet away. Realizing that he was under attack, Cobb retreated into the store but was pursued by Mitchell, who fired several additional shots at the victim, eventually striking Cobb in the chest before fleeing. Cobb produced his own gun and left the store after Mitchell, but succumbed to his injuries in the parking lot moments later. Though the entire incident had been captured on store surveillance cameras, the perpetrator could not be conclusively identified from the footage.

Mitchell became a person of interest a short time later when it was learned that he had engaged in several violent exchanges with Cobb in the days leading up to the shooting due to an ongoing dispute over Mitchell's girlfriend (a woman with whom Cobb had previously been involved). Cooperating with police, associates of Mitchell wore a wire and captured the defendant admitting to both his role in the shooting and to his methods of disposing of the murder weapon—a key piece of evidence used in the trial. The jury reached their verdict after deliberating for 4 hours following the three day trial.

Assistant District Attorney Kyle Steinebach of the Major Felony Bureau prosecuted the case for the People.

“Jealousies within relationships occur all of the time, but rarely do they rise to this level of violence,” said Steinebach. “Samuel Mitchell didn't just react, he hunted down Stephen Cobb and shot him to death. Anyone capable of doing what he did on June 9, 2012 should spend the rest of his life in prison.”

Samuel Mitchell will be sentenced before Judge James Piampiano on January DAY, where he faces up to 25 Years to Life in Prison.

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