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Press Release

Twenty-One year old guilty of murder For shooting Stoughton man as he lay in bed

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The Stoughton man who shot through a bedroom window and killed 21-year-old Stephen Erving in his bed has been found guilty of murder, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Michael W. Blanchard, age 24, fired several rounds from a 9 mm pistol through Erving's first-floor bedroom window on Lincoln Street, Stoughton, at roughly 3:30 a.m. on March 16, 2010.

Blanchard and Erving were known to each other and had a history of conflict.

"Our thoughts and our thanks are with Stephen's family and friends tonight," District Attorney Morrissey said, after a Norfolk Superior Court jury had delivered guilty verdict on second degree murder at 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, 2013. "This was a senseless attack. We thank them for their patience, assistance and testimony as this case came to trial."

On Wednesday, June 19, 2013, Judge Elizabeth Fahey heard a victim impact statement from the mother of the murdered man before sentencing Blanchard to life in prison on the murder conviction, plus a concurrent 2 ½ years in state prison for his conviction of carrying a firearm without a license in the attack. State Police detectives from the Norfolk District Attorney's Office and Stoughton Police investigated the homicide with the assistance of State Police Crime Scene Services Section, Ballistics Section and other specialized investigators. Evidence quickly developed making Blanchard a person of interest. He was arrested and arraigned the day of the murder.

"Assistant District Attorney Greg Connor and Victim/Witness Advocate Maureen Russell again showed great dedication and professionalism in the prosecution of this case," District Attorney Morrissey said. "Michael Blanchard is held accountable for this crime."