

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
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PRESS RELEASE

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BROCKTON, MA- Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz today announced that in a published decision by Judge Ireland, the SJC affirmed the conviction of Lawrence Bynum-Harris for murder in the first degree. The defendant murdered the victim, twenty-year-old, Claudio Montrond in Brockton on August 11, 2007. The murder was particularly brutal. The defendant struck Mr. Montrond in the head multiple times with a hammer and sliced his neck on both sides with a sharp tool.

On appeal, the defendant challenged (1) the handing of the mental health evidence, (2) the denial of the motion to suppress his confession, (3) the sufficiency of the evidence that he committed the murder with malice given his mental health defense, (4) the prosecutor's argument that the defendant scouted the area of the murder in advance, and (5) asked that the verdict be reduced under the court's 33E powers. The court rejected these arguments.

This case was tried at the Brockton Superior Court by ADA Lew Armistead and ADA Matt Libby with the assistance of ADA Donna Riordan. The appeal was handled by ADA Gail McKenna.

Judge Locke denied the motion to suppress and the case was tried before Judge Dortch-Okara.

Plymouth County District Attorney Cruz stated, "This was a vicious and unprovoked attack on Claudio Montrond. We hope that today's decision affirming the conviction brings some small measure of closure for his family."