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BROCKTON MAN GUILTY OF MURDER

BROCKTON – A man has been convicted and sent to State Prison for shooting another man to death behind a Brockton bar, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz has announced.

After a 3 week trial, a Plymouth County jury deliberated 8 hours before finding Jerome Morris (DOB: 11/16/87) guilty of one count each of Murder, Carrying a Firearm Without a License, and Discharging a Firearm within 500 feet of a Building. Judge Gregg Pasquale sentenced Morris to serve life in prison without parole on the Murder conviction, 2.5 to 2.5 and one day in state prison concurrent on the firearm conviction. The Commonwealth had recommended that Morris serve life in prison on the Murder conviction and 4-5 on the firearm conviction.

At approximately 2:20 a.m. on August 9, 2014, Brockton Police received notification from Brockton Hospital that they were treating a male gunshot victim. The victim, later identified as Quentin Phillips (DOB: 10/15/85) of Mattapan, was pronounced dead a short time later of a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Investigators found that both Phillips and Morris knew each other and had been patrons at Joe Angelo's Bar that night. At approximately 2 a.m., the pair had a verbal confrontation just before the bar closed. Outside, in the back parking lot of the bar, the pair further exchanged words before Phillips got into a parked car. Morris approached friends, one being Michael Townsend (DOB: 09/05/89) of Randolph, and told them of his exchange with Phillips and his fear that Phillips had a firearm. Townsend handed Morris his firearm and approached the parked car where Phillips was sitting. Morris fired two shots into the passenger side window, striking Phillips. Friends of Phillips operating and inside the car immediately fled the scene and brought Phillips to Brockton Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 2:25 a.m.

Through witness interviews and surveillance video, investigators determined that Morris was the shooter. Police sought and obtained an arrest warrant for Morris and he was arrested on October 31, 2014.

In February, 2016, Townsend pleaded guilty to Manslaughter and gun charges for his role in the murder. Townsend was sentenced to serve 10-12 years in State Prison.

Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Sprague and Assistant District Attorney Canan Yesilcimen prosecuted the case, which was investigated by State Police Detectives assigned to the District Attorney's Office and Brockton Police.

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