

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

April 19, 2024

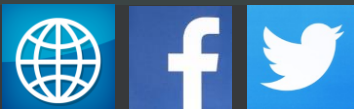


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Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

The People vs. Timothy Williams – Justice for Wendy Jerome

On Wednesday, New York Supreme Court Justice Alex Renzi sentenced Timothy Williams to the maximum sentence permitted by law, 25 years to Life for the 1984 rape and murder of 14-year-old Wendy Jerome.

Wednesday was a difficult day. While I was pleased that Justice Renzi sentenced Timothy Williams to the maximum, Wendy's family will never go a day where they do not think about her murder.

Wendy's mother and brother, Marlene and Bill, both addressed the court during sentencing. Marlene spoke about the type of young woman Wendy was growing into and her plans for the future. Bill spoke about his childhood bond with his big sister and how he was impacted by her murder. The violent actions of Timothy Williams broke an entire family. Even with the guilty verdict and life sentence, Wendy's family will continue to live with the pain of her death every day.



Timothy Williams spent all of these years believing that he got away with murder. Thankfully, advances in DNA technology caught up with the defendant and his lies.

This sentence marks the conclusion of the first Familial DNA Search case in New York State. This historic technology gives us hope for more cold cases. I look forward to further exploring this state-of-the-art investigatory tool. Justice delayed does not have to mean justice denied.

There are many investigators and agencies who worked on this case over the years. Without each of these individuals, this case may have never reached its conclusion. This includes many Rochester Police Investigators, crime technicians, scientists from the New York State Police Forensic Identification Unit, and even employees from the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office and Crime Lab. I would like to offer a sincere thank you to every single one of these individuals.

Homicide Update

To Date 2024:

City of Rochester Total:
11

Monroe County Total: 11

I cannot discuss the resolution of this case without acknowledging the work of former Assistant District Attorney and current Monroe County Court Judge, Julie Hahn. Judge Hahn worked on this case for years and never gave up on Wendy.

Finally, thank you to Wendy's family. Thank you for keeping Wendy's story alive all of these years. Thank you for attending court every single day through almost two trials. After 40 years of uncertainty, grieving, and longing for answers, I am proud that we were able to find justice for Wendy.

Sandra

Support the Police

The Monroe County District Attorney's Office offers our deepest condolences to our neighboring county which, lost two heroes this week.

Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen and Onondaga Sheriff's Lieutenant Deputy Michael Hoosock were ambushed and murdered in the line of duty. The Syracuse Police Department, Onondaga Sheriff's Office, and Onondaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick and his team have our full support.

Unfortunately Monroe County Law Enforcement is familiar with this pain. We continue to send prayers to these police officers and their families. Rest in peace, heroes.



Highlights from the MCDA's Office

A Monroe County Jury convicted 37-year-old **Randy Burney** of Murder in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, and Assault in the 2nd Degree for the murder of Kimanhi Hinds and the shooting of a security guard. On May 29, 2023, at approximately 2:00AM, Rochester Police Officers were called to the Flour City Station bar on East Avenue in the City of Rochester. Upon arrival, 41-year-old Kimanhi Hinds was found shot to death. A security guard for the establishment was also hit by the same bullet. The guard was transferred to Rochester General Hospital, where he recovered from the gunshot. After a thorough investigation by the Rochester Police Department, it was determined that Randy Burney was the assailant. The defendant approached Kimanhi Hinds and shot the victim. Randy Burney was also responsible for the gunshot that struck the security guard before fleeing the scene. The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Jessica Wagner, of the Special Victims Unit. Randy Burney will be sentenced on May 24, 2024, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Sinclair.

A Monroe County Jury convicted 50-year-old **Shon Todd** of Murder in the Second Degree and Arson in the 2nd Degree for the murder of Lysandra Bagley last May. On May 21, 2023, Rochester Firefighters were called to a home on Garson Avenue for a house fire. After controlling the fire, a body charred beyond recognition was located inside the house. It was determined that the body was 37-year-old Lysandra Bagley, who died of multiple stab wounds before the fire. Months later, after a thorough investigation conducted by the Rochester Police Department with the assistance of the Rochester Fire Department's Arson Task Force, Shon Todd, who was the father of Lysandra Bagley's children, was arrested for the murder and the arson. During an argument, Shon Todd stabbed Lysandra then intentionally started the house fire, even though two of his children were still in the house. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara VanStrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, and Assistant District Attorney Janna Jehlen, also of the Special Victims Unit. If you or anyone you know is struggling with domestic violence, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office urges you to reach out to law enforcement or the Willow Domestic Violence Center's 24/7 hotline at 585-222-SAFE (7233). Shon Todd will be sentenced on May 16, 2024, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Argento.

31-year-old **Kevin Dukes** pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for his role in the stabbing death of Constance Henry. On July 21, 2023, Rochester Police Investigators found Constance Henry deceased from stab wounds at her residence. After a thorough investigation, it was determined that Kevin Dukes was in a domestic altercation, when Constance Henry attempted to intervene. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Monica O'Brien, Deputy Chief of the Local Courts Bureau, and Senior Assistant District Attorney Kristina Hinkley, of the Special Victims Unit. Kevin Dukes will be sentenced on May 21, 2024, in front of Monroe County Court Judge Meredith Vacca.

Guardian's Cup

Assistant District Attorney Nico Gonzalez participated the Guardian's Cup to raise money for the New York Law Enforcement Assistance Program, which provides mental health services to first responders and law enforcement. ADA Gonzalez joined the New York State Police Team, which made it to the championship game against the Buffalo Police Department. Congratulations to BPD for their victory for this important cause!



E-Scrap for Camp Good Days

The Monroe County District Attorney's Office participated in an e-scrap event for Camp Good Days & Special Times through SunKing. This is SunKing's 14th e-Scrap for Camp fundraising campaign. We were proud to recycle 639 lbs of materials that will translate to funds for Camp Good Days. If your business is interested in participating in the future, please visit

<https://www.sunking.com/business/e-scrap-for-camp>!



MCDA in the News

<https://www.whec.com/local/timothy-williams-found-guilty-of-killing-girl-in-1984-is-expected-to-be-sentenced-wednesday/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/wendy-jerome-family-finally-gets-justice-after-nearly-40-years-timothy-williams-rochester-rape-murder-thanksgiving-1984-school-no-33-webster-avenue-sandra-doorley-familial-dna-trial-killer-sentencing>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/timothy-williams-sentenced-25-years-to-life-for-1984-murder-of-child/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/timothy-williams-sentenced-for-wendy-jerome-murder-rape-thanksgiving-1984-40-years-later-four-decades-school-no-33-webster-avenue-familial-dna-testing-trial-sentencing-mistrial-cold-case>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2024/04/17/timothy-williams-sentenced-in-murder-of-wendy-jerome-in-rochester-ny/73359106007/>

https://www.yahoo.com/news/timothy-williams-sentenced-25-years-220957466.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAC_dDRTxmuzunr61KqDdW9Etn1ejUq4sx24ml6cDKDgNyftvphgvfEWQ1618tnEgaevkghU_YD7dAZS6y_vAHvHgBF_y6abqZYG8VrRdF4WvhrxTXN24GggzNDE_t5BmCayS7HIIU0-qPuEwlQeU1HeNTBrNAGCO7grHTdZ0zk1

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/public-safety/2024/04/17/timothy-williams-sentenced-to-25-years-to-life-in-rochester-cold-case-murder#:~:text=A%20judge%20on%20Wednesday%20sentenced,counts%20of%20second%2Ddegree%20murder.>

<https://www.newsbreak.com/rochester-ny/3406595050306-shon-todd-found-guilty-of-murdering-mother-of-his-children-setting-house-on-fire>

<https://remixable-us.us/shon-todd-found-guilty-of-murdering-his-childrens-mother-and-burning-down-his-house/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/man-convicted-of-murder-and-arson-following-garson-avenue-fire-rochester/>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/shon-todd-found-guilty-of-murdering-mother-of-his-children-setting-house-on-fire/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/rochester-man-convicted-of-killing-mother-of-his-children-setting-their-home-on-fire-shon-todd-lysandra-bagley-garson-avenue-monroe-county-arson-murder-argument-domestic-dispute-incident>

<https://www.minorityreporter.net/post/man-convicted-of-murder>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/jury-finds-man-guilty-of-murder-for-four-city-station-shooting/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/man-convicted-of-murder-following-fatal-shooting-on-east-avenue/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/man-convicted-of-murder-for-fatal-shooting-during-fight-at-east-end-bar-rochester-flour-city-station-east-avenue-randy-burney-kimanhi-hinds-security-guard>



We are hiring attorneys! If you are a recent law school graduate or an experienced attorney and are interested in a career in criminal law and public service, apply with us today! More information is available on monroecounty.gov/da.