

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney**

September 5, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Joseph Boykins Sr. Convicted of Murder in the Second Degree and Attempted
Murder in the Second Degree**

Rochester, NY- Thursday, September 5, 2019, a Monroe County Jury convicted 51-year-old Joseph Boykins Sr. of Murder in the 2nd Degree, Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, Assault in the Second Degree, Criminal Use of a Firearm in the 1st Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, three counts of Criminal Use of Drug Paraphernalia in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of Marihuana in the 4th Degree after the murder of Michael Earlsey and the attempted murder of his ex-girlfriend.

On July 4, 2018, at approximately 1:00A.M. Joseph Boykins approached a residence on York Street in the City of Rochester where he opened fire on his ex-girlfriend and Michael Earlsey. His ex-girlfriend was shot twice and Michael Earlsey was shot at least eight times. Both victims were taken by ambulance to Strong Memorial Hospital, where Michael Earlsey later died.

Joseph Boykins fled the crime scene to his home where he attempted to dispose of evidence, illegal narcotics and marihuana. He was quickly arrested by the Rochester Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Amanda Balling, of the Child Abuse Bureau and Senior Assistant District Attorney Eleanor Biggers, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

“The quick actions and investigation of the Rochester Police Department led to the apprehension and successful prosecution of Joseph Boykins Sr. Thank you also to the New York State Police for their assistance with the prosecution of this case,” said Assistant District Attorney Amanda Balling. “On July 4, 2018, Boykins did not have a second thought when he violently and destructively opened fire outside a house on York Street. Our community is much safer with Joseph Boykins spending the rest of his life in the New York State Department of Corrections.”

“Every year, domestic violence leads to violence and tragedy in our community, this time taking the life of Michael Earlsey,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Domestic violence is not going away and we must continue to reach out to the victims who do not know where to turn. The Monroe County District Attorney’s Office urges anyone struggling in a domestic violence situation to immediately reach out to law enforcement or the Willow Domestic Violence Center.”

Joseph Boykins Sr. will be sentenced on October 18, 2019, in front of Monroe County Court Judge Randall. He faces a life sentence in the New York State Department of Corrections.

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