

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

March 3, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Samuel J. Smith Convicted for Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree

Rochester, NY- Tuesday, March 3, 2020, a Monroe County Jury convicted 30-year-old Samuel J. Smith of one count of Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, one count of Assault in the First Degree and one count of Criminal Use of a Firearm in the First Degree for the shooting of a 17-year-old pregnant female on Danforth Street in the City of Rochester.

On May 20, 2013, Samuel Smith attempted to kill the 17-year-old victim to avenge the death of a female who was murdered less than a week before. The evidence established that Smith followed the 17-year-old, looked her in the face and smiled before shooting her. The young woman and her unborn child survived the shooting and were taken to Strong Memorial Hospital, where she was treated for serious injury. Smith fled the scene after the shooting, but was apprehended by the Rochester Police Department days later.

On June 6, 2019, Samuel Smith's original conviction was overturned by the Court of Appeals. The same verdict was reached during the second jury trial.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Adam VanHeyst, of the Major Felony Bureau.

"Today's verdict is justice for the victim who may have lost her life, and the life of her unborn baby, because of Samuel Smith's assault," said Assistant District Attorney Adam VanHeyst. "I want to thank the Rochester Police Department, the Monroe County District Attorney Investigators and the Monroe County District Attorney Victim/Witness Advocates. It is because of these dedicated professionals that Samuel Smith will be spending time in the New York State Department of Corrections."

"Today's jury verdict proves once again that Samuel Smith is a violent, vindictive offender who is better served in the New York State Department of Corrections," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "The intentional attempted murder of a pregnant 17-year-old shows the true character of the defendant. Thank you to the Rochester Police Department, ADA VanHeyst and my incredible staff who helped secure justice today."

Samuel Smith will be sentenced on April 8, 2020, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Alex Renzi.

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