

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

August 5, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Calli Marianetti  
Monroe County District Attorney's Office  
47 South Fitzhugh Street  
Rochester, NY 14614  
(585) 753-4532

**Joseph Boykins Sr. Sentenced to 30 Years – Life for the Murder of Michael  
Earlsey**

Rochester, NY- Thursday, August 5, 2021, Monroe County Court Judge Randall sentenced 53-year-old Joseph Boykins Sr. to a total of 30 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections. On May 26, 2021, a Monroe County Jury convicted Joseph Boykins Sr. of Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Assault in the Second Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, three counts of Criminal Use of Drug Paraphernalia in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Criminal Possession of Marihuana in the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.

On July 4, 2018, at approximately 1:00A.M. Joseph Boykins Sr. 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 and illegal narcotics. He was quickly arrested by the Rochester Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Eleanor Biggers and Special Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Hyatt, both of the Special Investigation Bureau.

“Today’s sentence reflects the extreme violence that Joseph Boykins perpetrated on our community,” said Assistant District Attorney Eleanor Biggers. “Thank you to the Rochester Police Department and the New York State Police for the diligent investigation which led to today’s sentence. With the conclusion of the case in the courtroom, we hope the Earlsey family will find some sense of closure and comfort.”

“Over three years later, the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office is proud to have found justice for Michael Earlsey,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Joseph Boykins Sr. acted violently and destructively when he open-fired on a residence in the City of Rochester. Three years later, gun violence is more prevalent than ever in our city. The Monroe County District Attorney’s Office will continue to do our part to hold these violent offenders accountable.”

###