

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

August 9, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR (interim): Emily Chisholm
Monroe County District Attorney's Office
47 South Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 753-4347

**Joshua Burns Sentenced to 25 Years to Life for Murder in the Second Degree
and Elzie James Sentenced to 25 Years for Manslaughter in the First Degree**

Rochester, NY- On Thursday, August 9, County Court Judge Sam L. Valleriani sentenced Joshua Burns to 25 years to life in the New York State Department of Corrections after being convicted by a Monroe County Jury on June 20, 2018 for the death of Jarvis Porter. Elzie James was also sentenced today to 25 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years post release supervision after pleading to Manslaughter in the First Degree on May 31, 2018.

On December 25, 2017, Joshua Burns and co-defendant, Elzie James brought a loaded shotgun to an apartment building on Genesee Street in the City of Rochester. The defendants encountered the victim, Jarvis Porter, inside the building at which time the victim was shot in the face with the shotgun.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Michael Harrigan and Senior Assistant District Attorney Michael Robertson of the Major Felony Bureau.

“Thanks to the thorough investigation conducted by the Rochester Police Department, both Joshua Burns and Elzie James are no longer a threat to our community,” said Assistant District Attorney Michael Harrigan. “On Christmas Day, 2017, the defendants violently took the life of Jarvis Porter. Both Burns and James are now off of our streets serving lengthy prison sentences.”

“Joshua Burns and Elzie James carelessly took the life of Jarvis Porter,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Both defendants had no regard for the victim or the lives and lasting consequences to his friends and family. I want to thank the Rochester Police Department’s Major Crimes Unit and Assistant District Attorneys Michael Harrigan and Michael Robertson for their outstanding investigation and prosecution that was critical in taking these dangerous men off of our streets.”

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