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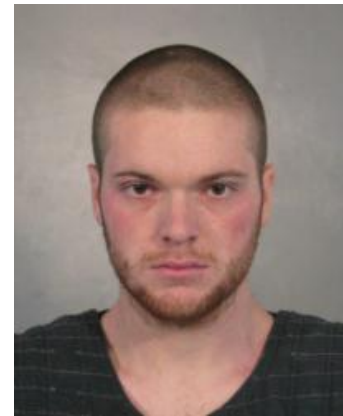
Ken L. Kramer
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: August 17, 2017

Re: People v. William David King

Today, in Department 8 of the Solano County Superior Court, before the Honorable Wendy G. Getty presiding, the Defendant, William David King, was sentenced to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for life without the possibility of parole. The LWOP sentence imposed was ordered to be served consecutive to a determine term of 10 years in state prison and consecutive to another life term in prison. The defendant had previously pled no contest to all charges set forth in the Information, specifically, Attempted Willful, Deliberate, and Premeditated Murder of Christine Joens, Robbery of Christine Joens, First Degree Murder of Cheryl Sherwood, and Robbery of Cheryl Sherwood. The defendant had admitted the enhancements for personally inflicting great bodily injury on Ms. Joens and using a hammer in the commission of the crimes against her. In addition to pleading to First Degree Murder of Ms. Sherwood, the defendant admitted the special circumstances of lying in wait and felony murder pursuant to Penal Code sections 190.2(a)(15) and 190.2(a)(17)(A). The defendant further admitted that he personally used a baseball bat during the commission of the murder.



Several family members of Christine Joens and Cheryl Sherwood addressed the court at the sentencing and explained the impact the defendant's actions had on them and their loved ones. Christine Joens, who stated that she continually suffers severe panic attacks and nightmares to this day, 18 months after the horrific assault, said she is in the healing process. Christine Joens courageously testified at the preliminary hearing and described in detail the day the defendant viciously attacked her. The Court praised her for her courage that she showed throughout this case. Ms. Sherwood's family addressed the Court and questioned why the defendant engaged in these vicious assaults, while also telling the defendant they have forgiven him for his actions.

District Attorney Krishna Abrams stated, "This case shocks the conscience of every one of us in the courtroom and should shock everyone in this community because it could have been any one of us doing business at the bank or running into the mall in broad daylight. This defendant made choices and those choices and actions stole the unfilled life of a beloved woman and turned another woman's life upside down. These random acts of violence are some of the most disturbing facts we have seen. Although today's sentencing cannot undo the harm, hopefully, the sentence will provide some amount of closure and comfort to the family that the defendant will never be able to get out and hurt someone else."

On February 2, 2016, Christine Joens was banking at Wells Fargo located at 1702 Tennessee Street, Vallejo, CA. As she left the bank and was approaching her car, she was grabbed from behind by the defendant and struck repeatedly on the top of her head with a hammer.

While she lay on the ground in a pool of blood, she tried to push her money to the defendant. He took the money but continued to strike her in the head. Ms. Joens gripped her cell phone and tried to soften the blows to her head. Ms. Joens suffered severe injuries from this horrific attack, but fortunately she survived.

The following day on February 3, 2016, at approximately noon, Cheryl Sherwood went to the Macy's Department store in Fairfield, CA. As she exited the department store and approached her car, she was brutally attacked with a baseball bat. The defendant, who went there to find a victim to attack, hid near the stairwell and waited for Ms. Sherwood to come out of the department store. The defendant followed Ms. Sherwood to her car and struck her in the head with a baseball bat. Ms. Sherwood suffered several skull fractures and contusions to her shoulders, abdomen, knee, and wrist. Ms. Sherwood succumbed to her injuries on February 5, 2016.

Fairfield Police Detective David Neal and Vallejo Police Detective Mat Mustard were the lead investigators on this case. Jeff Lelea provided victim advocacy. The case was prosecuted by District Attorney Krishna Abrams.