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COUNTY OF SOLANO**

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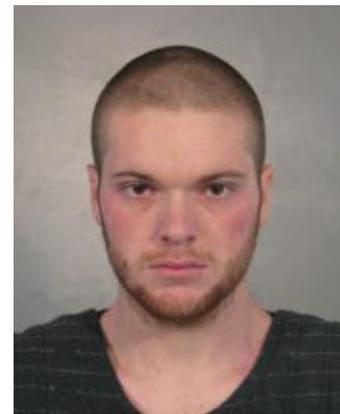
Ken L. Kramer
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: July 6, 2017

Re: People v. William David King

Today, in Department 8 of the Solano County Superior Court, before the Honorable Wendy Getty presiding, the Defendant, William David King, pled no contest to all charges set forth in the Information. Specifically, the defendant pled to Count 1: Attempted Willful, Deliberate, and Premeditated Murder of Christine Joens in violation of Penal Code Section 664/187(a), Count 2: Robbery of Christine Joens in violation of Penal Code section 211. The defendant admitted the special allegation that he personally used a hammer in the commission of those crimes. He further admitted that he personally inflicted great bodily injury upon Christine Joens, in violation of Penal Code section 12022.7(a). Defendant pled to Count 3: First Degree Murder of Cheryl Sherwood, in violation of Penal Code section 187(a), and Count 4, Robbery of Cheryl Sherwood in violation of Penal Code section 211. As to Count 3, First Degree Murder, 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 in violation of Penal Code section 12022(b). The special circumstances charged in the Information made the defendant eligible for death or life in prison without the possibility of parole.



After careful thought and consideration of the penalty factors in this case including the aggravating circumstances in this case and the mitigating factors (Defendant was 19 years old at the time of the offense with no criminal record), consulting with both investigating agencies, Vallejo Police Department and Fairfield Police Department, and meeting and listening to the wishes and input of both Christine Joens and Cheryl Sherwood's loved ones, the People agreed to not seek the death penalty and accept the plea to all charges which would result in the defendant's confinement to state prison for the remainder of his life. It was of utmost importance to consider the victims' wishes to have finality of this case where litigation and appeals would no longer be an issue. "Unfortunately, no punishment will erase the damage that this defendant has done, however, if we can provide some sense of closure for both of these families and ensure our community that this defendant will never be able to harm another innocent person in his lifetime, it is our belief that justice will have been served," said District Attorney Krishna Abrams. The defendant will serve a determinate term of 10 years in state prison. Consecutive to the determinate term, the defendant will serve a life sentence for the Attempted Premeditated Murder of Christine Joens. Consecutive to that indeterminate sentence, the defendant will serve life without the possibility of parole for the First Degree Murder of Cheryl Sherwood.

On February 2, 2016, Christine Joens was banking at Wells Fargo located at 1702 Tennessee Street, Vallejo, CA. As she was approaching her car, she was struck from behind by the defendant, who was later seen on surveillance cameras waiting in his vehicle. The defendant continued to strike Ms. Joens on the top of her head

with a hammer. While she lay on the ground being repeatedly hit with the hammer, 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.

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 had been hiding out of view from the parking lot camera, waited for her to come out of the store, followed her and struck her in the head with the bat. The victim suffered several skull fractures and contusions to her shoulders, abdomen, knee, and wrist. Ms. Sherwood succumbed to her injuries on February 5, 2016.

The investigation led to the defendant and he was subsequently arrested, interviewed, and admitted his involvement in these crimes. A preliminary hearing was heard January 30, 2017- February 2, 2017, where Ms. Joens, among other witnesses, courageously testified at the hearing. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on August 17, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 25 of the Solano County Superior Court.

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.