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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

SEAN SULLIVAN SMITH PLEADS GUILTY TO SEPTEMBER 2017 MURDER OF DAION WILLIAMS

On July 30, 2018, Sean Sullivan Smith appeared before the Lynchburg Circuit Court and pled guilty to second degree murder pursuant to a plea agreement where Smith will serve 22 years in prison for the murder of Daion Williams.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Kelsey Smith, proffered to the court that on September 14, 2017, Lynchburg Police Department officers responded to the home of Sean Smith at 500 Amherst Street after receiving several calls regarding a stabbing. When police arrived, Williams was found in critical condition and was transported to Lynchburg General Hospital where he was later pronounced dead. Williams' autopsy concluded that his cause of death was multiple stab wounds to the torso. The autopsy noted several defensive stab wounds to Williams' arms and hands. Sean Smith and his girlfriend, who were present at the scene, were transported to Lynchburg General Hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Smith and his girlfriend initially claimed Smith stabbed Williams with a machete after Williams attacked Smith's girlfriend. Detective David Dempsey with the Lynchburg Police Department conducted several interviews of Smith and his girlfriend. Ultimately Smith's girlfriend revealed that she and Smith made up the story of the attack to keep Smith from getting into trouble for the murder.

Smith's girlfriend told Detective Dempsey that Williams came to the house at 500 Amherst Street, knocked on the door, and asked for Smith. She answered the door and told Williams that Smith was upstairs. When Williams was almost to the top of the stairs, Smith lunged from behind a door and began stabbing Williams with a machete.

At the guilty plea, Smith's Attorney Charles Felmlee, Esq. stated that Smith had been assaulted earlier in the evening while he attempted to purchase drugs. When Williams arrived at his house, Smith armed himself with a machete and attacked Williams out of fear. Smith apologized to Williams' family at the hearing.

Smith was sentenced to 40 years in prison with 18 years suspended resulting in a 22-year active sentence. He must submit to 5 years of supervised probation upon release and good behavior for 40 years.

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