

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



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MEDIA RELEASE

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Portsmouth, VA

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ROBERT RIPSON CONVICTED OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER

PORTSMOUTH, VA – After a two-day jury trial (September 6-7, 2022,) the defendant Robert Ripson, was found guilty of first-degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony in the murder of Mrs. Melissa Paul, of Portsmouth, Virginia.

Based on legislative changes, post July 1, 2021, defendants have a right to select a jury sentencing or to be sentenced by the judge of the circuit court, who presided over the jury trial. In this instance, the defendant, Robert Ripson, opted to be sentenced by the jury.

The jury recommended a sentence of life plus three years. The defendant will return for formal sentencing on November 16, 2022, after which an update will be provided.

The trial team consisted of Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Joyce Weddle and Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Lynnette Hill.

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