

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



## OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 9, 2023

### **RAMYA STEWART CONVICTED FIRST DEGREE MURDER**

**PORTSMOUTH, VA-** In the matter of Commonwealth v. Ramya Stewart, the jury has found the Defendant guilty of First Degree Murder, Use of a Firearm in Commission of a Felony and Shooting in the Commission of a Felony, in the killing of 33-year-old Johnnie Freeman on December 25, 2022.

The two-day jury trial concluded on November 9, 2023.

Evidence presented by the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney during the trial showed that the victim attended a holiday party held at the defendant's home the night of the murder. While inside the home, Freeman became involved in an incident with Stewart and her relative.

Freeman exited the home and was standing outside with his girlfriend. Stewart then came outside and stood on the porch where she fired a gunshot striking Freeman in the head. Freeman was pronounced deceased at the scene by medics at 11:13 p.m.

Stewart faces life in prison and is scheduled to be sentenced on January 22, 2024.

This matter was prosecuted by Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Joyce Weddle and Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Lynnette Hill.

"The Portsmouth Commonwealth's Attorney's Office is committed to seeking justice for victims and their loved ones and to fighting against harm to our community. Our team is grateful for the members of our Portsmouth community who served as jurors in this matter of tremendous importance." – Stephanie N. Morales, Commonwealth's Attorney

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