

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Antoinette Ramseur, Public Information Officer
ramseura@portsmouthva.gov
(757) 393-8581 ext. 7032

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 22, 2024

RAMYA STEWART SENTENCED TO SERVE 26 YEARS IN FIRST DEGREE MURDER CONVICTION

PORTSMOUTH, VA- On January 22, 2024, Ramya Stewart was sentenced to serve an active sentence of 26 years for the murder of 33-year-old Johnnie Freeman on December 25, 2022.

At the conclusion of the trial on November 9, 2023, Stewart was found guilty of First Degree Murder, Use of a Firearm in Commission of a Felony and Shooting in the Commission of a Felony.

Stewart was sentenced to 25 years for the First Degree Murder conviction with two years suspended and two years of supervised probation upon release. Stewart was sentenced to three years for the Use of a Firearm in Commission of a Felony conviction. For the Shooting in the Commission of a Felony conviction, the five year sentence was suspended with six months of supervised probation upon release.

According to evidence presented by the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney during the trial, Mr. Freeman attended a holiday party held at Stewart'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.

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

###

Stephanie N. Morales, Commonwealth's Attorney
Portsmouth Judicial Center · 1345 Court Street, Suite 105
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704