

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



MEDIA RELEASE

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RYHEEM HARGROW PUGH SENTENCED TO ACTIVELY SERVE 18 YEARS FOLLOWING CONVICTION OF SECOND-DEGREE MURDER AND OTHER CHARGES

PORTSMOUTH, VA- On April 30, 2024, Ryheem Jasaun Hargrow Pugh was sentenced to serve an active sentence of 18 years followed by 3 years of supervised probation for the murder of 34-year-old Rocco Marcus Nixon on June 1, 2023.

The three-day jury trial concluded on February 15, 2024 and Hargrow Pugh was found guilty of Second Degree Murder, Use of a Firearm in Commission of a Felony and Shooting in Commission of a Felony.

Hargrow Pugh was sentenced to serve 15 years for the Second-Degree Murder charge. He was sentenced to 3 years for Use of a Firearm in Commission of a Felony. For Shooting in Commission of a Felony, Hargrow Pugh was sentenced to 3 years, which will run concurrently with the Second-Degree Murder sentence. Hargrow Pugh will serve an active sentence of 18 years followed by 3 years of supervised probation.

Evidence presented by the Commonwealth during the trial showed that the morning of June 1, 2023, the defendant and the victim arrived at a daycare center that the victim's children attend. Hargrow Pugh, was inside a vehicle with the mother of the victim's children and her children. Nixon was in a separate vehicle. Hargrow Pugh and Nixon both exited the vehicles and Hargrow Pugh fired gunshots at Nixon, striking him multiple times. Nixon was later pronounced deceased at the hospital.

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

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