

**News Release from  
The Honorable Sandra Doorley  
Monroe County District Attorney**

June 4, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Shawn Appleberry Sentenced to 20 Years to Life for the Murder of Desmin Diggs**

Rochester, NY- Tuesday, June 4, 2024, New York State Supreme Court Justice Stephen Miller sentenced 49-year-old Shawn Appleberry to 20 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections and 15 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision to run concurrent. Shawn Appleberry was previously convicted by a jury of Murder in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree for the murder of Desmin Diggs.

On March 21, 2022, shortly after midnight, Rochester Police Officers and emergency responders were called for a man shot on East Ridge Road near Hollenbeck Street in the City of Rochester. Upon arriving at the scene, officers found Desmin Diggs in the parking lot of a business, where he was pronounced deceased.

Rochester Police Officers identified Shawn Appleberry as Desmin Diggs' killer. Shawn Appleberry was arrested following the shooting after attempting to hide the murder weapon. The two men did not have a relationship before Shawn Appleberry pulled his illegally possessed firearm and shot Desmin Diggs. Shawn Appleberry was apprehended by the Rochester Police Department and was charged with the murder.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Kevin Sunderland, of the Special Victims Unit.

"Shawn Appleberry made a series of violent and illegal decisions that led to the death of Desmin Diggs," said Assistant District Attorney Kevin Sunderland. "This murder was completely avoidable and unnecessary, as these two men did not know each other before the night of the homicide. I want to thank the Rochester Police Department for their investigation that resulted in the quick identification of Shawn Appleberry. After a long time inside the court room, it is my hope that the loved ones of Desmin Diggs can finally find peace with today's resolution."

"The murder of Desmin Diggs was unprovoked and without reason," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "The defendant's quick reaction to pulling an illegal firearm and shooting was a reckless decision that resulted in a murder. Based on his choices, Shawn Appleberry is best served in the New York State Department of Corrections, instead of promoting violence in our community."

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