

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



MEDIA RELEASE

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Portsmouth, VA

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RUFUS DILLARD GUILTY 1st DEGREE MURDER – JURY RECOMMENDS LIFE PLUS 13 YEARS

PORTSMOUTH, VA- After the prosecution rested and closing arguments were heard in the matter of Commonwealth v. Rufus Dillard, the jury has found the Defendant guilty of 1st Degree Murder, Robbery and Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony and has recommended a sentence of life in prison plus 13 years.

The Commonwealth's evidence at trial showed that an eyewitness observed Rufus Dillard shoot into the vehicle occupied by the victim and walk away, at which time the Defendant raised his hood and made eye contact with the eyewitness. The victim sustained 8 gunshot wounds which perforated his lungs and struck his heart, causing his death. The evidence showed that the victim's pockets were turned out and his cell phone was missing. Additionally, there were particles of gunshot residue on the Defendant's hands. The evidence showed that immediately after detectives informed the Defendant that they would be testing his hands for gunshot residue, but before the administration of the test, the Defendant broke a bag of ice he had in his hands and washed his hands with the water and ice from inside the bag. While in jail, the Defendant confessed to the murder, saying "I burned his ass up" and admitting to shooting the victim 8 times. The Defendant additionally confessed to turning out the victim's pockets and robbing him of his cell phone. Additionally, the victim was the defendant's cousin.

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