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Eastside Charleston Man Pleads Guilty to Killing Police Informant on Hanover Street

Charleston, SC– On the verge of closing arguments, the Defendant Eugene Stanley Rollerson pleaded guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter, Possession of Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime and Obstruction of Justice for a negotiated 25 years imprisonment. He must serve 85% of his sentence. Judge R. Scott Sprouse presided over the trial and accepted the Defendant’s guilty plea. Assistant Solicitors Stephanie Linder and David DuTremble prosecuted the case. Sergeant Eric Tuttle with Charleston Police Department led the investigation into the victim’s death.

Assistant Solicitor Linder stated, “The Victim’s family saw and understood the hurdles we faced during the trial and wholeheartedly supported this plea. One cousin embraced every member of the Defendant’s family who was in court and talked of how the Eastside Community has to stand together to grow. The dignity and emotion the family displayed in describing the toll this and other retaliatory incidents has had on both the victim’s and the defendant’s family was incredible.”

On September 14, 2016, Defendant Rollerson gunned-down the victim at the intersection of Hanover and Columbus Streets in the Eastside community in downtown Charleston. The Victim had been a cooperating informant with law enforcement prior to his death, and worked as an informant on drug cases against the Defendant. The Defendant had been scheduled to plead guilty on those drug distribution charges two days after the killing. With the Victim as the only witness against the Defendant on his drug charges, his death meant the drug distribution charges against him had to be dismissed. The Defendant wore a shirt over his face to mask his identity during the attack and his identification was a key, controversial issue for the State at trial.

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