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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dayton Teen Guilty of Voluntary Manslaughter

State v. Darryl Ferguson, 2014-CR-2059/1

DAYTON, OH (02/12/2016) – After a trial to the court, the defendant having waived a jury trial, Judge Steven K. Dankof found the defendant, 18-year-old **Darryl Ferguson**, of Dayton, not guilty of murder and felonious assault, but guilty of voluntary manslaughter and aggravated assault in relation to the beating death of Ryan Adams.

The defendant was previously transferred from Juvenile Court to be tried as an adult because he was 17 at the time of the incident and has a lengthy juvenile record of prior violent convictions.

On June 8, 2014, the juvenile defendant and an adult co-defendant, 23-year-old Harley M. Farrell, got into a fight with the victim on Deeds Avenue, in Dayton. The victim was violently beaten and rendered unconscious, at which time co-defendant Farrell robbed him of his wallet and shoes.

Some of the incident was captured on a cellphone video camera by another juvenile who was present. The next day, a third co-defendant, 23-year-old Crystal D. Bittner, discovered the video and smashed the phone, then disposed of it in the trash.

The victim was hospitalized due to his injuries. On August 27, 2014, he died as a direct result of the violent beating he received.

Co-defendant Bittner was convicted of tampering with evidence and was sentenced to probation on November 19, 2014. Co-defendant Farrell agreed to cooperate with police and testify against defendant Ferguson, and pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter, aggravated robbery, felonious assault and tampering with evidence.

Public Information Officer Greg Flannagan said, "We are disappointed in the judge's verdict." Assistant Prosecutors John Amos and Kraig Chadrick added, "We believe we proved beyond any doubt that this defendant should have been found guilty as charged of murder and felonious assault."

Co-defendants Farrell and Ferguson will both be sentenced on February 24, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

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