



BCPO News



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Jury Finds Evesham Man Guilty of Killing Friend and his Dog

Burlington County Prosecutor LaChia L. Bradshaw announced that a 26-year-old Evesham man was found guilty yesterday in Superior Court of fatally stabbing a friend, as well as his dog, while robbing him in early 2022.

After deliberating for just over an hour, a jury returned guilty verdicts against Donovan G. Hollingsworth on charges of Murder (First Degree), Robbery (First Degree), Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose (Third Degree), Cruelty to Animals (Third Degree) and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon (Fourth Degree). The Hon. Christopher J. Garrenger, J.S.C., scheduled sentencing for October 27 at the Burlington County Courthouse in Mount Holly. Hollingsworth has been lodged in the Burlington County Jail since his arrest a few hours after the slayings.

The investigation began the morning of February 5, 2022, when officers from the Evesham Township Police Department were called to the Olympus Apartments on Baker Boulevard for a report of a possible dog attack on a resident. When officers arrived, they discovered Thomas Pierson III, 26, of Evesham, deceased inside his residence with multiple stab wounds.

The victim's dog, a Cane Corso named Django, was found dead - also with stab wounds - on a stairwell landing. The investigation revealed that Hollingsworth traveled to Pierson's apartment with the intention of robbing him. An altercation ensued, during which Hollingsworth stabbed Pierson and Django. Hollingsworth fled and was later taken into custody by Evesham Township police officers at the emergency room of Virtua Voorhees Hospital, where he had gone for treatment of minor injuries.

The investigation was conducted by the Prosecutor's Office and the Evesham Township Police Department. The lead investigators were BCPO Detective Sergeant Brian Cunningham and ETPD Detective Joseph Magnus.

Hollingsworth was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecutors Bob VanGilst and Jasmine Bealor. Assistant Prosecutor VanGilst supervises the BCPO Major Crimes Unit.

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