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Prince William County, VA

Prince William County Commonwealth's Attorney Amy Ashworth announces the successful prosecution of Jacob Belotti arising from the February 2018 death of Dustin Lueker in Haymarket, Virginia. Mr. Belotti pled not guilty to three charges and after a three-day jury trial, was convicted of Felony Murder and Distribution of a Schedule I/II Controlled Substance.

On the afternoon of Sunday, February 25, 2018, Prince William County Fire and Rescue and Police responded to Youngs Drive in Haymarket for a 911 call regarding an unresponsive individual. Dustin Lueker was found dead on the living room floor of Mr. Belotti's residence. Mr. Belotti claimed the two had consumed alcohol and gone to bed the day before and that when he awoke, his friend was dead. One eyewitness later came forward to challenge Mr. Belotti's version of events and eventually police determined that multiple individuals had partied with Belotti and Lueker, initially at Mr. Lueker's apartment and then at Mr. Belotti's house. Several individuals engaged in drug use including cocaine and what they believed to be heroin. At Mr. Lueker's request and over the warnings of at least one witness, Mr. Belotti injected Mr. Lueker with what everyone believed to be heroin but which actually was a combination of heroin and Fentanyl. Mr. Lueker died as a result. Dustin Lueker was a 25-year-old that had served honorably as a U.S. Marine prior to being injured in Afghanistan.

In February 2019, Detective Robyn Hyatt sought indictments against two individuals that were in Mr. Belotti's home the morning Mr. Lueker was injected with the illegal substances. One of the individuals agreed to cooperate and testify against Mr. Belotti in exchange for a recommendation by the Commonwealth that he serve no more than two years in jail on a Distribution of Controlled Substance felony charge and satisfactorily complete a term of probation to be determined by the Judge.

Mr. Belotti will be sentenced by the Honorable Petula Metzler who presided over the three-day jury trial. The sentencing hearing will take place on March 15, 2024. The maximum punishment on each charge is forty years in prison.

The case was prosecuted by Commonwealth's Attorney Amy Ashworth and Senior Assistant Sarah Sami. The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney would like to commend Detective Robyn Hyatt with the Prince William County Police Department for her investigation

of the death of Mr. Lueker which led to the successful prosecution of this case, as well as Tamara Thomas, Director of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Victim/Witness Program, for the assistance she provided the victim's family in this case.

Amy Ashworth, Commonwealth's Attorney, offered the following comment about this case:

“This was a difficult case to prosecute. Charges had been denied by the prior administration given the complexities of the case including the death of one of the eyewitnesses from complications of substance abuse. However, at the end of the day, good people came forward to share their knowledge of what transpired that weekend which ultimately made the prosecution possible and they did so knowing that their own actions would be scrutinized and criticized. I am grateful for their courage and hopeful that the successful prosecution of this case sends a message to anyone contemplating the use of illegal narcotics. Fentanyl is deadly and one shot can kill you. There are a multitude of resources to reach out to if you are addicted to narcotics and I am hopeful this case prompts at least one person to take a second look at their addiction and get help.”

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Amy Ashworth is the elected Commonwealth's Attorney for Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. She was elected in November 2019 and was recently re-elected to another four year term. The Commonwealth Attorney's Office can be reached from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. every business day by phone at 703-792-6050 or email at cwooffice@pwcgov.org.

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