



## Rod Underhill, District Attorney

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### **Jacob McGhee pleads guilty to manslaughter, receives 15 year prison sentence**

Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced 42-year-old Jacob McGhee appeared before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Karin J. Immergut on November 16, 2018 and was sentenced to 15 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to a single count of manslaughter in the first degree following the death of Richard Whitmore.

This investigation started on November 7, 2017 at 11:24 p.m. when officers from the Portland Police Bureau responded to the intersection of Southeast 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Southeast Morrison Street. Upon arrival, officers located Mr. Whitmore down on the ground suffering from a traumatic injury. Mr. Whitmore was transported to an area hospital where he later died.

During the investigation, law enforcement learned that McGhee, who went by the name of "Jai," got into an altercation with Mr. Whitmore. The Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office determined the cause of Mr. Whitmore's death was a penetrating sharp force injury of the left chest.

"We must recognize the Central Precinct officers from the Portland Police Bureau who initially responded to this call. They got on scene and quickly launched an investigation and started talking with multiple witnesses to this incident." Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Todd Jackson said after court. "The officers learned that the suspect in this homicide used the name of 'Jai' and through their experience of patrolling inner-southeast, they were able to quickly identify Jacob McGhee as the suspect in this case."

During the investigation, law enforcement collected surveillance video that captured this incident. The video corroborated witness reports that Mr. Whitmore was attempting to separate himself from the defendant.

This case was carefully resolved through a negotiated settlement after the District Attorney's Office received mitigating evidence from defense counsel. Based on the facts of this case, this change of plea appropriately holds the defendant accountable for his unlawful actions. By pleading guilty to manslaughter in the first degree, the defendant is admitting that he recklessly, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life, caused the death of Mr. Whitmore.

McGhee will receive credit for time already served but no other credit while in custody of the Oregon Department of Corrections. Upon his release, he will be on three years of post-prison supervision.

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