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Austin Brown receives 20 year prison sentence for killing Alexander Brodigan in Gresham, Oregon

Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced 21-year-old Austin Brown received a 20 year prison sentence on October 12, 2018 after he pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter in the first degree with a firearm and robbery in the first degree involving the death of Alexander Brodigan.

At the sentencing hearing, the family of the homicide victim, Alexander Brodigan, 24, described him as being someone who loved the people in his life and cherished the time he spent with them.

"Alex was my son and in addition to being my son, Alex was also a brother, an uncle, a grandson, a great grandson, a cousin, a nephew, and a friend to many people," his father Kerry Brodigan said in court. "There have been many sleepless nights and long days of sadness. Feelings of anger, frustration and sadness have become normal occurrences. ...No one expects to have to endure the death of a child -- especially a death caused by malicious disregard for human life."

This investigation began on June 19, 2017 when Mr. Brodigan was shot and killed at North Gresham Elementary School, located at 1001 Southeast 217th Avenue in Gresham, Oregon. Upon arriving at the school, Gresham Police located a vehicle crashed into an exterior wall. Mr. Brodigan was located inside the vehicle deceased as a result of a gunshot wound. Law enforcement responded with a K-9 unit and during a search of the area located Brown, Andrew McMahon and other individuals at a nearby residence. During this investigation, law enforcement learned that Brown and McMahon planned to rob Mr. Brodigan upon his arrival at the school. Law enforcement learned that Brown and McMahon brought a loaded 9mm semi-automatic pistol to the school and that when he and McMahon confronted Mr. Brodigan, Brown fired a single round that caused Mr. Brodigan's death.

"Austin Brown killed my son," Mr. Kerry Brodigan said. "He had no right to take him from us. He did so without regard for Alex or the people who would be affected by his actions. ...It is my hope that Mr. Brown gets the help that he needs and perhaps someday he can atone for his actions. I hope to be able to forgive Mr. Brown someday for what he did and the pain that he's caused our family. For now, we will continue to grieve and remember Alex as he was."

Mr. Brodigan's mother said her entire family received a life sentence the day Brown and McMahon went to the school to rob, and ultimately kill, her son.

"We will persevere and we will bounce back," she said. "Austin, you have a second chance. Do something good with it. Do something measureable."

Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Todd Jackson, who prosecuted this case along with Senior Deputy District Attorney Tom Cleary said in court, "this has been a tremendous loss for them and an impact on their family that they will have for the rest of their lives."

Judge Eric J. Bergstrom sentenced Brown to 20 years in prison.

Brown apologized in court and said, "It was a terrible accident and I didn't do that on purpose. I wish I could take it back. ...If I could take it back, I would. I'm very sorry and hope you guys can forgive me."

Brown's co-defendant in this case, Andrew McMahon, who participated in the robbery but did not shoot Mr. Brodigan, previously pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter in the first degree and attempted robbery in the first degree. The final sentencing date has not been set.

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