



## Rod Underhill, District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Timothy Cato charged following the Oct. 25, 2018 death of Tyler Chism**

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced 59-year-old Timothy Cato was charged in connection with the homicide of 28-year-old Tyler Chism.

On October 25, 2018, shortly after 2 a.m., officers assigned to the Portland Police Bureau responded to the area of Northwest 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Northwest Everett Street on the report of a stabbing, according to a probable cause affidavit that was filed in this case. Upon arrival, law enforcement located Mr. Chism on the ground suffering from an apparent stab wound. Medical personnel responded to the scene and pronounced Mr. Chism deceased. An autopsy performed by the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office determined the cause of death to be a stab wound to the chest.

Detectives assigned to the Portland Police Bureau's Homicide Detail learned that Mr. Chism and his girlfriend had been in an argument when they were approached by a male and female. The argument ended when the male, identified as "Tim," suddenly pulled a sword from his cane and stabbed Mr. Chism once in the chest, according to the probable cause affidavit. The male, later identified as Cato, put the sword back in his cane and walked away, while using the cane for assistance.

Surveillance video from the incident was collected as evidence. Law enforcement executed a search warrant at Cato's residence on October 26, 2018 and took the defendant into custody. The sword cane used to stab Mr. Chism was located at the defendant's residence, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Cato is charged with one count of murder and one count of unlawful use of a weapon. He appeared before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Melvin Oden-Orr on October 29, 2018. He was appointed a criminal defense attorney and pleas of not guilty were entered on his behalf.

The defendant's next court date is scheduled for November 6, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the Multnomah County Justice Center, Courtroom 3. A copy of the charging document and probable cause affidavit can be obtained using case number 18CR71865 in the Oregon eCourt Information (OECI) system.

A charging document is only an accusation of a crime, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

At this time, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office will have no additional statements regarding this ongoing criminal investigation.

The family of Mr. Chism is requesting privacy at this time. His parents, Mark and Heather Chism, have provided the District Attorney's Office with a statement and a photograph of their son that we are releasing on their behalf.

*"Our hearts are broken with the loss of our son. Tyler was a person with disabilities that resulted in many life challenges. He also was a person with gifts of creativity and passion, inspired by art and music. His death seems so senseless. We are deeply grateful for the work of the Portland Police Bureau in identifying the person responsible for his death and their efforts to bring him to justice."*

#MCDA#

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