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Taylor Kraig receives 10 year sentence for killing 2 year old boy in 2016

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced a mandatory 10 year prison sentence for 22-year-old Taylor Kraig who caused the death of two-year-old Zackariah Daugherty.

On July 13, 2018, the defendant appeared before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Thomas M. Ryan and pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter in the first degree.

The Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office performed an autopsy on Zackariah Daugherty and determined his cause of death to be blunt force trauma and the manner of death to be homicide. As the case progressed, the District Attorney's Office received a new report from the medical examiner's office, which included a change in the cause and manner of death. This report would have made it difficult for the State to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Kraig committed the indicted offenses of aggravated murder by abuse, aggravated felony murder, murder by abuse and felony murder had the case gone to trial. After receiving this new medical information, Mr. Kraig, through his defense attorneys, informed the District Attorney's Office that he was committed to resolving this case through a plea that states he unlawfully and recklessly, by neglect, and/or maltreatment caused the death of Zackariah Daugherty. The District Attorney's Office updated Zackariah Daugherty's mother on the case developments, and she supported this resolution.

"At the time of his death, Zackariah's mother was in a relationship with the defendant, Mr. Kraig," Deputy District Attorney Amanda Nadell said in court on Tuesday. "On the day of his death, Mr. Kraig was the one responsible for caretaking of Zackariah while his mother was at work. We know from the investigation Mr. Kraig was the sole caretaker of Zackariah on the day of his death. At the time it became clear that [Zackariah] was in extreme medical distress, Mr. Kraig delayed seeking medical treatment for well over an hour before the child was ultimately brought to the hospital."

At Tuesday's sentencing hearing, Deputy District Attorney Nadell read a statement on behalf of Zackariah Daugherty's mother, Amanda, who attended the hearing but was overcome with grief and requested the statement be read by DDA Nadell.

"Ever since the day I lost Zack, my life will never be the same," the statement read.

Ms. Daugherty's letter went on to state that she feels a piece of her is missing.

"I will never understand why he had to be taken from me... I know he lives on because I see pieces of him everywhere I go. I just wish he was actually here with me... Without my Zack, I will never be the same," the statement concluded.

According to previously filed court documents, the traumatic injuries inflicted upon Zackariah Daugherty occurred on August 15, 2016 at a residence in the 600 block of Southeast 162nd Avenue in Portland.

Upon his arrival at Portland Adventist Hospital, Zackariah Daugherty was in cardiac arrest and life-saving measures were immediately performed by trained medical professionals. Staff at the hospital opined Zackariah Daugherty's medical condition was caused by abuse and notified police.

When law enforcement arrived at the hospital, they observed and documented multiple bruises on Zackariah Daugherty including a large bruise to his left temple/forehead, blackening bruised eyes and nose, bruises on his legs, inner thighs and feet. Additional serious physical injuries were also noted by medical staff.

Zackariah Daugherty was subsequently transported to Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and was admitted into the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

Medical experts, including the Critical Care doctor at OHSU, opined the injuries to Zackariah Daugherty were not consistent with any type of fall.

"No length of prison sentence or no resolution will ever replace Zack or fill the void that has been created by his death... It's my hope that with the defendant taking accountability by entering a guilty plea to manslaughter in the first degree that that can provide some closure to Ms. Daugherty and allow her to heal and move forward," Nadell said.

This case was investigated by Portland Police Detectives Mark Slater and Erik Kammerer, the Portland Police Bureau's Homicide Detail and the Multnomah County Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Team.

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