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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Spencer Johnson pleads guilty to killing his former girlfriend in July 2016

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced 39-year-old Spencer Thomas Johnson pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the first degree with a firearm constituting domestic violence and unlawful use of a weapon constituting domestic violence for intentionally causing the death of 48-year-old Cory Jonell Lumber.

This investigation started on July 2, 2016 when officers assigned to the Portland Police Bureau responded to the Misty Firs Apartments, located at 1538 Southeast 122nd Avenue after receiving a report of a deceased woman inside a residence. Upon arrival, law enforcement and medical personnel located Ms. Lumber deceased.

Law enforcement arrested Johnson at the scene.

At the time of her death, Ms. Lumber and the defendant were living together in the apartment where the homicide occurred, according to court documents. The couple had only been in a relationship for approximately three months. Ms. Lumber moved in with the defendant about one month prior to being killed.

During this investigation, law enforcement learned the defendant was involved in an October 2015 domestic violence incident involving the defendant's former girlfriend, according to court documents.

In June 2016, Ms. Lumber had told others that she was unhappy in her relationship with the defendant, according to court documents.

Law enforcement learned that in the late evening hours of July 1, 2016, Ms. Lumber and the defendant got into an argument at the apartment complex. Witnesses reported hearing sounds of a physical fight and eventually sounds that were initially thought to be fireworks, but later determined to be gunfire.

On the morning of July 2, 2016, the defendant woke up around 6:30 a.m., left his apartment and called his parents and reported Ms. Lumber was deceased inside the residence. Approximately 11 minutes after ending the phone call with his parents, the defendant returned to his apartment and called 9-1-1.

Inside the defendant's residence, law enforcement, acting on a court-authorized search warrant, located six firearms, including the weapon used to kill Ms. Lumber, a .40 caliber handgun, according to court documents.

Sentencing in this case is scheduled for January 16, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Christopher J. Marshall.

If you would like to speak with someone about [domestic violence prosecution](#), safety planning or other resources please contact the [Victim Assistance Program](#) for the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office at 503.988.3222.

This case is being prosecuted by Multnomah County Deputy District Attorneys Kelley Rhoades and Eric Collins.

Resources:

- [Multnomah County District Attorney's Office: Victims' Rights Guide](#)
- [Multnomah County District Attorney's Office: Thinking About Safety Planning](#)
- [Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council: Domestic Violence Resource | Phone Numbers](#)

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