



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

David Leyton, Prosecutor



Ex-Con Pleads Guilty in Genesee Twp. Killing

February 1, 2007

FLINT – Prosecutor Leyton said he is confident that justice will be served when a Genesee Twp. man is sentenced for his guilty plea in the murder of Thadford Charles, Jr., 49.

Gregory D. Snyder, 44, of Genesee Twp., and an ex-convict, plead guilty to second-degree murder, felon in possession of a firearm, and felony firearm for the April 19, 2006 shooting and killing of Charles.

“What is especially troubling to me in this case is the apparent racial motivation of this killing,” said Prosecutor Leyton. Snyder, who is white, bragged to a witness about the shooting of Charles, a black man, and smiled and joked about it afterwards with racial overtones. “My office deals with violent cases on a daily basis and none of it makes sense to me,” Leyton commented. “But this case is particularly disturbing due to the brazen and racist attitude of the defendant.”

The defendant told the Court that he had been threatened by the victim earlier that day and that he had only meant to scare him when he shot his gun. “His words ring hollow,” said Leyton after the plea was entered.

Snyder, who is scheduled to be sentenced on March 29, 2007, faces up to life in prison for his plea to second-degree murder and a mandatory two years imprisonment consecutive to any sentence rendered by the Court on the other charges for his felony firearm plea.

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