

**Tompkins County**  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**Matthew Van Houten**  
District Attorney

320 North Tioga Street  
Ithaca, New York 14850

Tel: (607) 274-5461  
Fax: (607) 274-5429

*"Inclusion Through Diversity"*

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PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Attorney Matthew Van Houten announced today that William L. Marshall, 41, of Ithaca, was sentenced on Friday, April 14, 2023, in Tompkins County Court in connection with his conviction of Manslaughter in the First Degree.

County Court Judge Joseph R. Cassidy sentenced Marshall to a determinate term of twenty (20) years in New York State Prison together with five (5) years of post-release supervision. The prosecution sought the maximum sentence, 25 years plus 5 years of post-release supervision.

Deputy District Attorney Andrew Bonavia prosecuted the case. Attorney Raymond Schlather of the Ithaca law firm of Schlather, Stumbar, Parks & Salk, LLP represented the defendant.

On February 23, 2023 Marshall pleaded guilty to intentionally causing the death of Alan Godfrey on July 20, 2021 at 206 Taughannock Boulevard in the City of Ithaca.

Marshall is currently serving a 33-month sentence from a 2022 conviction in federal court for possession of a firearm by a prior convicted felon.

On April 13<sup>th</sup> the Court heard testimony from several witnesses, including a forensic psychiatrist, intended to mitigate the defendant's actions and support Marshall's request for a minimum sentence.

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, Alan Godfrey's family members addressed the Court in an emotional plea for the maximum sentence. Alan's sisters Latishia Abdellatif and Quinn Godfrey, and Alan's mother, Barbara Godfrey gave powerful and poignant statements to the judge. The theme of their message was to seek Justice for Alan. They emphasized Alan's sense of family and his ability to make everyone around him happy. Alan's death was a heartbreaking loss to the entire community and was devastating to his family and friends. Alan Godfrey was 32 years old when his life was tragically cut short. Alan was a loved member of the Ithaca community, known for his smile and vibrant personality. Alan had worked at GIAC and Southside and was universally regarded for his positive energy and larger-than-life persona.

District Attorney Van Houten stated "Regardless of any underlying circumstances, the defendant chose to take the law into his own hands when he brutally killed Alan Godfrey. Alan Godfrey did not

deserve to die. There is no place in our society for those who exercise vigilante justice without regard for the law and without considering the devastating consequences of their actions.”

The District Attorney’s Office recognizes and thanks the agencies who conducted the investigation and assisted in the prosecution of this case, specifically the exemplary work of the Ithaca Police Department, the New York State Police, Troop C BCI and Forensic Investigation Unit, and the Tompkins County Sheriff’s Department.

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