



Rod Underhill, District Attorney
1021 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 600
Portland, OR 97204-1193
Phone: 503-988-3162 Fax: 503-988-3643
www.mcda.us

MAY 17, 2019

Avante Armstead receives 216 month prison sentence for killing Irvin Batalla

Today, Multnomah District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 23-year-old Avante Armstead received a 216 month prison sentence for causing the death of 22-year-old Irvin Batalla.

"1,410 days ago, Irvin was abruptly taken from this world. For many of those days, we were left wondering what had happened to him and why this had happened to our family," Mr. Batalla's relatives said in an impact statement that was read in court. "Irvin was mixed up with the wrong crowd and his vices eventually took over his life. Despite it all, he remained committed to being compassionate and caring for his family and friends in any way he could."

This investigation started in July 2015 when the Portland Police Bureau responded to Rocky Butte Park in northeast Portland and spoke with a community member who reported that a group of children had located a deceased individual.

Mr. Batalla's body was found at the base of a cliff.

Law enforcement eventually learned that Mr. Batalla and Armstead, who were acquaintances, went to Rocky Butte in Mr. Batalla's vehicle to smoke marijuana. There, Armstead pushed Mr. Batalla off a cliff, which resulted in his death.

On July 6, 2015, law enforcement in Lane County, Oregon contacted Armstead after police responded to a vehicle crash near Springfield. The crash involved Mr. Batalla's car. At that time, law enforcement did not know Mr. Batalla had been killed.

Law enforcement in Lane County took Armstead into custody on an unrelated warrant out of Washington County.

Around July 6, 2015, Mr. Batalla's family reported him missing to the Portland Police Bureau after they could not contact him.

Using evidence obtained at Rocky Butte and information developed after Armstead was taken into custody, law enforcement determined Mr. Batalla's death was suspicious in nature.

In April 2017, law enforcement spoke with a witness who confirmed that Armstead pushed Mr. Batalla off a cliff at Rocky Butte and then took his vehicle by using force.

On May 17, 2019, Armstead pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter in the first degree and one count of robbery in the third degree.

"This is an old case and an old wound for the family of Mr. Batalla. They have been suffering immensely since Mr. Batalla was killed," said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Nicole Jergovic. "Our office would like to commend Portland Police Bureau Detective Brad Clifton who spent hundreds of hours investigating this case to determine who was responsible for Mr. Batalla's death. We believe this is an appropriate resolution to this highly negotiated case."

Upon his release, Armstead will be on 36 months of post-prison supervision.

#MCDA#

Contact: Brent Weisberg, Communications Director
Phone: 503.988.6567
Email: Brent.Weisberg@mcda.us