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## First Degree Manslaughter Conviction Upheld by NYS Appellate Division

*Defendant sentenced to 25 years in State Prison for Role in the Death of  
Tyler Rhodes*



**ALBANY, NY-** District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division, Third Department unanimously upheld the 2012 conviction and sentence of JAH-LAH VANDERHORST for his role in the death of Tyler Rhodes. That decision can be found [here](#).

“In April 2011 we lost a dynamic and talented young man to the hands of two individuals who turned to street violence to solve their differences. The death of teenager Tyler Rhodes was needless and unnecessary. The decision today may end the court process for these two defendants, but it also serves as a reminder of the very real and serious consequences that others will face if they choose to engage in armed violence in the City of Albany. We stand with Tyler’s family in a commitment to work with inner city youth to ensure no other family has to experience the loss of a child to street violence,” commented DA David Soares.

On April 30, 2011, VANDERHORST, then 17, and co-defendant DHORUBA SHUAIB, then 19, of Albany, caused the death of 17 year old Tyler Rhodes at Hoffman Park in the City of Albany by means of stabbing him in the heart with a knife.

On February 3, 2012, SHUAIB was found guilty after a jury trial of (1) Count of Manslaughter in the First Degree, a Class B Violent Felony, under a statute for accessorial liability, meaning he intentionally behaved in a way that did cause the death of the victim. Specifically, SHUAIB gave VANDERHORST the knife and blocked the victim from escaping.

On June 21, 2012 VANDERHORST was found guilty after a Jury trial of (1) Count of Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, a Class “B” Violent Felony. On August 8, 2012, VANDERHORST was sentenced to 25 years in State Prison before Judge Dan Lamont in Albany County Court.

On November 21, 2013 the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division, Third Department unanimously upheld the 2012 conviction of co-defendant SHUAIB for his role in the death of Tyler Rhodes. That decision can be found [here](#).

Assistant District Attorney Steven Sharp of the Legal Affairs Bureau argued to uphold the conviction of these defendants.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710.

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