



**OFFICE OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY**

JUDICIAL CENTER  
9311 Lee Avenue, Suite 200  
MANASSAS, VIRGINIA 20110

AMY ASHWORTH  
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

Phone: (703)792-6050  
Email: [CWOffice@pwceg.org](mailto:CWOffice@pwceg.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**October 17, 2023, 4:00 pm**

Prince William County, VA

On October 16, 2023, the Honorable Judge Kimberly A. Irving, Chief Judge of the Prince William County Circuit Court, found Desmond Daniel guilty of two counts of first-degree murder following his guilty plea to the charges. The Defendant will be sentenced on March 14, 2024. Members of the victims' families will present victim impact testimony at that time. The Defendant faces a maximum sentence of two life terms in prison.

On November 16, 2022, Prince William County Police responded to Isle Royale Terrace, in Woodbridge, VA after neighbors reported hearing multiple gunshots. Police arrived at the scene to find two gunshot victims in the basement of the home. One victim, Alyssa Trynese Gainey, a 22-year-old Dumfries woman, was pronounced dead at the scene. The other victim, Javon Alberto Williams, a 24-year-old Woodbridge man, was taken to an area hospital where he was later pronounced dead. A family dog was also located in the basement suffering from gunshot wounds and had to be euthanized. Through Ring camera footage recovered at the scene, it was determined that Desmond Daniel had shot through the basement window, entered through the window, shot in the direction of the victims, and left through the same window. The investigation also revealed several posts on social media via video and written posts, by Mr. Daniel displaying multiple firearms and making threats towards the victims, several hours before the shooting. Investigators, in partnership with Virginia State Police, were able to locate Mr. Daniel near Dulles International Airport following Mr. Daniel's purchase of a one-way ticket to Panama.

Commonwealth's Attorney Amy Ashworth offered the following comment: "This case was such a horrible tragedy. Our community lost two young adults to senseless gun violence. We are grateful for the hard work done by the police who worked quickly to apprehend Mr. Daniel before he left the country. Excellent police work allowed us to resolve this case without putting the victims' families through trial. Due to the evidence gathered through the investigation, Mr. Daniel entered guilty pleas to two first-degree murder charges. He will face the consequences of his actions on March 14, 2024, at the sentencing hearing."

The Office of the Commonwealth Attorney would like to commend and thank the Prince William County Police Department, particularly Detectives Matthew Andersen and Shailee Davis, for their investigation and work that successfully resulted in convictions in this case. In

addition, the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney would like to thank Christy Reynolds, Case Manager for the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney Victim/Witness Program, for the assistance that she provided to the victim's family. This case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Kathleen Bilton.

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Amy Ashworth is the elected Commonwealth's Attorney for Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. She was elected in November 2019. The Commonwealth Attorney's Office can be reached from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. every day by phone at 703-792-6050 or email at [cwoffice@pwcgov.org](mailto:cwoffice@pwcgov.org).

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