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Press Release

Life without parole for 2009 Murder of Weymouth man

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The man who murdered Ronald Pratt has been sentenced to prison for life, with no possibility of parole, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Scott T. Steadman, 48, of Holbrook, was convicted today (Thursday, February 21, 2013) of murder in the first degree and two counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon after a two-week jury trial in Norfolk Superior Court. Trial Judge Elizabeth Fahey imposed the statutory sentence of life in prison with no parole eligibility immediately after the verdict.

Pratt was 50 and homeless, living in a tent in the Washington Street area of Weymouth on July 18, 2009 when Steadman and a couple of friends went to that area and eventually engaged in an altercation with Pratt and another homeless couple living in a tent nearby. (Each member of that couple was the victim of one of the assault charges.)

The jury found that hours after his group left, Steadman returned to the encampment in the dark of night armed with a knife and stabbed Pratt more than 40 times. He was found dead the following morning. There were no direct witnesses, and the knife was never recovered.

"This was a case that presented challenges, but the combined good work of the Weymouth Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police detectives in our office has helped deliver a just result," District Attorney Morrissey said after the verdict.

"Assistant District Attorneys Greg Connor and Victim/Witness Advocate Maureen Russell deserve great credit for their work in this trial, and providing this jury the information they needed to convict," Morrissey said. "I can only thank the jury for their service and hope that their verdict provides Ronald Pratt's surviving family with whatever measure of comfort the justice system can offer."