



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

\$130,000 bail in alleged Murder-for-hire plot

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A Westwood man was ordered held on a total of \$130,000 bail after pleading not guilty to charges that he tried to hire a hit man to kill a former business associate with whom he had a substantial financial dispute, was illegally carrying a gun when arrested, and was illegally in possession of an additional 14 firearms and ammunition found during a search of his residence.

Joseph Eosco, 74, of Willet Pond Drive in Westwood, was arrested at a location in Canton mid-morning on Friday, Feb. 27, 2015 by Massachusetts State Police Detectives attached to Norfolk District Attorney's Office, one of whom had been working in an undercover capacity posing as a potential hit man. Following his arrest, police allege to have found a 32 caliber pistol in Eosco's car that he was not licensed to possess.

Eosco pled not guilty to one count to solicitation of murder in Dedham District Court hours after his Friday arrest. A search warrant was executed at his Westwood home that evening, resulting in the seizure of nine rifles, one shotgun, four handguns and multiple boxes of ammunition; he pled not guilty to charges associated with those seizures in Dedham District Court the following Monday morning.

On Tuesday, he was transported to Stoughton District Court to answer a warrant there charging him with carrying a firearm without a license at the time of his arrest in Canton. He also entered a plea of not guilty to those charges. Should Eosco post \$100,000 cash in the first case, plus \$15,000 cash in the second Dedham case, plus \$15,000 cash in the Stoughton case, the court ordered him to submit to GPS monitoring, 24/7 home confinement and ordered him to stay away from and have no contact with the intended victim.

"We take these allegations very seriously," District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said. "The allegations are that there were not one but several conversations between Mr. Eosco and an undercover State Police Detective, including providing information and intelligence on how and when the intended target could be located."

Assistant District Attorney Adam Lally, in arguing for bail at the initial arraignment Friday, told Dedham District Court Judge Michael Pomarole that Mr. Eosco and the undercover officer had negotiated a price of \$20,000 for the murder, with a portion to be paid up front.

Law enforcement sources received information that a party living in Westwood and associated with the Norwood Energy Corp. might be actively soliciting the homicide of an adult male known to him. The investigation began immediately. Morrissey thanked the State Police and other involved law enforcement for their swift and professional action in addressing the alleged threat. "What is most important is that the intended target of this alleged plot is safe," District Attorney Morrissey said.

All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.