

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney**

February 1, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Frank Cassata Convicted of Murder in the 2nd Degree for the Death of 3-year-old Amir Pallet

Rochester, NY- Friday, February 1, 2019, a Monroe County Jury convicted 48-year-old Frank Cassata of Murder in the 2nd Degree, Aggravated Vehicular Homicide, Vehicular Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, Operator Leave Scene of Incident-Injury Resulting in Death, Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated and two counts of Driving While Intoxicated for the death of 3-year-old Amir Pallet.

On the evening of June 2, 2018, after an argument with an individual, Frank Cassata drove onto the sidewalk on Lyell Avenue in an attempt to show aggression towards the individual with whom he was arguing. He continued on, striking Amir Pallet with his vehicle along with a second family member. Both victims were transferred to Strong Memorial Hospital, where Amir died from his injuries. Frank Cassata was immediately arrested by the Rochester Police Department, after a concerned citizen followed him from the scene.

The case was prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles.

“Frank Cassata’s actions on June 2, 2018, were not only reckless, but they were also absolutely devastating,” said Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles. “Families do not expect to be in danger when spending a summer evening outside in their front yard. Although today’s verdict is fair, there are no winners because a 3-year-old is dead. I want to thank the great team at the Rochester Police Department who collected the evidence during this investigation that secured today’s verdict.”

“Any homicide case that comes through my office is difficult, but any involving the death of a child is especially heartbreaking,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Frank Cassata made a series of decisions last summer that subsequently led to the tragic murder of Amir Pallet. Myself, the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office and every law enforcement entity in the Rochester community have stressed how important it is to make the right decisions when getting behind the wheel of a vehicle because you may kill someone. If Frank Cassata had made the decision not to drink and drive and not succumb to his road rage, a family would still have their child today.”

Frank Cassata will be sentenced on March 7, 2019, in front of County Court Judge Sam L. Valleriani. He faces 25 years to life in the New York State Department of Corrections.

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