

Killer's request for bond denied in Spotsylvania

Keith Epps

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A convicted murderer's request to be freed on bond because of his failing health was denied Tuesday in Spotsylvania County Circuit Court.

Larry Johnston, 80, was sentenced to life plus three years in prison in May for the May 21, 2017, slaying of 65-year-old Guy Prudhomme. Johnston was convicted of first-degree murder for shooting Prudhomme during a property dispute.

Johnston has appealed his convictions to the Virginia Court of Appeals and his new attorney, Christopher Reyes, recently took the unusual step of requesting that Johnston be released from jail pending the results of his appeal. Reyes argued that Johnston has significant health issues that cannot be properly cared for in the Rappahannock Regional Jail.

Johnston testified that his bad health is getting worse and that he has already been hospitalized for five days since his conviction. He asked to be allowed to live with his fiancée.

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Prosecutors Colleen Barlow and Jeff Adams strongly opposed the request, saying that Johnston has already proven to be a danger to the community by killing Prudhomme over a relatively insignificant matter. Prudhomme's widow and other neighbors were in court to oppose the request.

Judge Ricardo Rigual wasted little time in denying the motion.

Evidence presented at Johnston's trial showed that Prudhomme was at his property on Young Lane overlooking the Ni River when he went outside to pay workers who were doing landscaping work. He had a conversation outside with Johnston that soon turned heated.

Johnston was upset about some decorative rocks along the river and had previously accused Prudhomme's workers of dumping brush on his property. Witnesses said Prudhomme had walked away when Johnston followed him up the driveway and fired a single shot into the victim's chest.



Johnston

Keith Epps: 540/374-5404

kepps@freelancestar.com

By Keith Epps

Covers crime for Fredericksburg region
