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**Jason Paul Roche Sentenced to 43 Years in Prison for the Murder of Devonte Ortiz**

(Austin, TX) A jury in Travis County has sentenced Jason Paul Roche to 43 years in prison after he was convicted for the murder of 19-year-old Devonte Ortiz. Ortiz was shot to death during an argument with Roche over fireworks.

In the early morning of July 4, 2018 Austin police were called to 2501 Anken Drive in Southeast Austin after a shooting had been reported. Investigators say Roche was upset that Ortiz and his friends would not stop shooting fireworks in the area. When the fireworks continued, Roche approached Ortiz with a gun in hand and they started arguing.

Witnesses captured video of the dispute on their cell phones. Roche called Ortiz and his friends ‘monkeys’ and other racial slurs. Roche’s father then got involved in the argument. He pushed and shoved Ortiz. During the physical altercation with Ortiz, Roche’s father fell to the ground. Detectives say that is when Roche fired his gun and killed Ortiz.

On March 12, a jury found the 43-year-old Roche guilty of murder. A day later, the jury sentenced him to 43 years in prison. The trial was heard before Judge Brenda Kennedy in the 403<sup>rd</sup> District Court.

The case was prosecuted by Travis County Assistant District Attorneys David Levingston, Guillermo Gonzalez and Devin Falck.

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