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PRESS RELEASE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

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*Pending charges represent accusations:
all defendants are presumed innocent unless
and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable
doubt under the United States Constitution.*

FORMER OFFICER ENTERS STATE PRISON

Former Dedham Police Officer Michael Schoener, 49, entered state prison today (May 4, 2023) not quite 10 years after the kidnapping and murder of James Robertson of Avon.

“Schoener’s conviction for accessory before the fact was in [April of 2019](#), but his sentence was stayed – over the Commonwealth’s objection – while his appeals were pending,” District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said Thursday. “The appeals process was essentially exhausted when the Supreme Judicial Court upheld the conviction April 18, 2023.”

At the sentencing hearing before Norfolk Superior Court Judge Robert C. Cosgrove in 2019, Assistant District Attorney Lynn Beland asked the Court to impose a sentence of 9 to 10 years in state prison for his conviction. The maximum penalty available was 10 years. Defense attorney John Gibbons asked for a sentence of probation, or an 18-month sentence in the house of corrections.

Judge Cosgrove imposed a sentence of 6 to 9 years in state prison.

“ADA Beland, assisted by ADA Pamela Alford, successfully prosecuted a complex and difficult case, also securing kidnapping and homicide [convictions against James Feeney and Scott Morrison](#),” District Attorney Morrissey said. “This was a case that caused incredible hardship and pain for James Robertson’s parents, both of whom have since passed away. While I am relieved for the surviving family, I would have wished his parents to see the justice executed today.”