



**KYM L. WORTHY**  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF WAYNE  
**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

1200 FRANK MURPHY HALL OF JUSTICE  
1441 ST. ANTOINE STREET  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-2302  
TEL: (313) 224-5777  
FAX: (313) 224-0974

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Contact: Maria Miller  
Wayne County Prosecutor's Office  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
(313) 224-5817  
(313) 213-0457  
[mmiller@co.wayne.mi.us](mailto:mmiller@co.wayne.mi.us)

## **Michigan State Police Trooper Acquitted in Shooting Death of Homeless Man**

Today twelve Wayne County jurors acquitted Michigan State Police Trooper Jay Morningstar in connection with the fatal shooting death of Eric Williams, 40 of Detroit that occurred on April 14, 2005 at East Fort and Beaubien in the City of Detroit.

Trooper Morningstar was acquitted on charges of Murder Second Degree (MCL 750.317), a felony with a maximum penalty of life in prison. He was also acquitted of Manslaughter: Intentionally Aiming Without Malice, Death Resulting (MCL 750.329) a felony that carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and/or a \$7,500 fine.

Prosecutor Worthy stated, "We always thought the jury needed to hear and decide the facts. We are obviously disappointed by this verdict. This case is a stark reminder that no one is above the law."

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