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PRESS RELEASE

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DEFENDANT WHO SOLD HEROIN LACED WITH CARFENTANYL THAT KILLED MAN SENTENCED TO 5 ½ YEARS IN PRISON FOR THIRD DEGREE MURDER

On September 28, 2018, Carver County District Court Judge Kevin Eide sentenced Jacob Svobodny, age 29, to 5 ½ years (66 months) in prison for selling heroin laced with carfentanyl that killed John Michael Hall in January of 2017.

A Chaska Police investigation revealed that on January 6, 2017, Jacob Svobodny first purchased heroin from a drug dealer in Minneapolis. Next, Svobodny and a co-defendant texted John Hall inquiring whether Hall wanted to purchase some heroin. In the early morning hours of January 7, 2017, Hall purchased what Hall believed was heroin from Svobodny for a \$30 target gift card and a small amount of marijuana. Later that morning, Hall's roommate found Hall dead on their townhome floor. Hall died the day before his 28th birthday.

On May 26, 2017, an autopsy determined carfentanyl toxicity caused Hall's death. Carfentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 100 times more powerful than fentanyl and 10,000 times more potent than morphine. Carfentanyl's sole suggested use is as a general anesthetic for enormous animals such as elephants.

Chaska Police were able to solve the crime through an exhaustive year-long investigation which entailed gaining the cooperation of a reluctant co-defendant and through painstaking analysis of phone records,

snapchat records, video surveillance, cell phone tracking, text messages and other witness statements.

At the sentencing Carver County Attorney Metz related that John Hall had lived in Alabama and came to a faith-based treatment center in Minnesota to deal with his addiction. John Hall loved music, art, drawing and sports, especially Alabama football. John Hall adored his family and friends, and enjoyed laughing and spending every moment with them.

Metz further explained that his office takes a direct approach to overdose cases: any seller of drugs automatically "signs up" for whatever may happen to the purchaser. If the purchaser dies from an overdose because of the sale, then the seller signs up for a Third Degree Murder charge and a likely sentence to prison.

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