



Parker Cop Guilty Of Murder

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Shocking may not be a strong enough word.

On Sept. 30, 2010 Mark Bomia, a Parker Police officer, killed his ex-girlfriend, Anna Beach, while he was on duty and in uniform. In 2011, the consequences of that action came down on Bomia and the city of Parker itself.

Bomia was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison in November. He currently is an inmate in the state Reception and Medical Facility in Union County, where new prisoners are housed, according to the state Department of Corrections.

Prosecutor Larry Basford used the confession that Bomia gave to Capt. Jimmy Stanford of the Bay County Sheriff's Office during the trial. He also pointed out, during his closing that Bomia was supposed to "protect and serve."

"This isn't just an average citizen," Basford said during his closing argument. "This is a man who was trained to react in stressful situations."

Bomia's attorney, Kim Dowgul, argued that Bomia reacted during an argument and had actually committed manslaughter, not first degree murder. But Basford suggested that Bomia had the crime thought out before it was committed.

"He loved her to death. He loved her enough to kill her," he added. "He didn't take flowers to her that morning; he took that gun."

Whether or not Bomia planned the crime and whether or not it was "especially heinous, atrocious and cruel," became a key part of the case this year as prosecutors decided not to pursue the death penalty against the ex-cop.

State Attorney Glenn Hess said the evidence in the case meant prosecutors could not prove those elements beyond a reasonable doubt. Beach's family was upset over the decision.

They were also upset with the Parker Police Department and sued the city in civil court alleging the city was neglectful in hiring and retaining Bomia, and that the excessive force Bomia used against Beach violated her civil rights. Some evidence in the case suggested that Bomia and Beach had a violent relationship that he stalked her while on duty and that members of the police department knew about the issues and ignored them.

The city settled the lawsuit for \$200,000 the same week he was convicted in criminal court. The city also agreed to pay for Beach's funeral expenses.