



Michael C. O'Malley
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Dale Peters Sentenced to Life in Prison Without Parole Possibility for Murder of Ex-Girlfriend

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CLEVELAND – Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley announced that Dale Peters was sentenced to Life Without Parole for the murder of ex-girlfriend Laura Fruscella.

On the morning of October 29, 2017, Peters entered Fruscella's home and severely beat her. She attempted to flee by getting in her car but did not have her keys. Peters followed her outside and sliced her throat in the front yard of her house on Montrose Ave.

Peters fled the scene, but later returned and stole Laura's television and car to stage a break in. He dumped the television behind a local church and left the car at a gas station near E. 55th before returning to his west side residence. Cleveland Police located him inside his car in his driveway, and a five-hour standoff ensued. Police were forced to use tasers and pepper balls to subdue Peters after he attempted suicide by shoving a knife through his nose.

Peters, 65, and Fruscella, 65, had dated for approximately nine years. In August, 2017, Fruscella filed domestic violence charges against Peters and a temporary restraining order was issued. Peters had a hearing scheduled on October 30th for the charges as well as for violating the protection order earlier in the month.

"This was a calculated, vicious attack on a woman who wanted nothing more than to be free from her abuser," said Prosecutor O'Malley. "The sentence is appropriate justice for this heinous crime."

Peters waived his right to a jury trial and was found guilty of Aggravated Murder, Aggravated Burglary, Aggravated Robbery, Kidnapping, Murder, Felonious Assault, Violating a protection order, Grand Theft, and Tampering With Evidence. He was sentenced to Life Without Parole for the murder charges along with consecutive sentences of 15 and a half years for the other charges.

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