



STEVE DESCANO
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
4110 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, ROOM 114
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-4047

10/29/24

Contact: Laura Birnbaum, PIO
571-396-1179

**STATEMENT FROM COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO
ON JULIANA PERES MAGALHAES PLEA**

Fairfax County, VA – Today, Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced that Juliana Peres Magalhaes, 24, pleaded guilty to manslaughter for shooting and killing Joseph Ryan, 39, on February 24, 2023. Ryan, a Springfield resident, was shot and killed at a residence in Herndon, where Peres Magalhaes lived and worked as an au pair for Brendan and Christine Banfield.

"Earlier today, Juliana Peres Magalhaes pled guilty to manslaughter for shooting and killing Joseph Ryan on the morning of February 24, 2023. Today's agreement marks a significant step forward in this case, and it is an important development in our pursuit of justice for the victims and their families," **CA Descano said**. "Much of the information that led to this agreement cannot be made public at this time, due to the upcoming criminal trial against the other defendant in this matter. I would like to thank the Fairfax County Police Department, as well as Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Eric Clingan and Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Kelly Sprissler for their diligent and extensive investigatory work on this matter."

On October 19, 2023, Peres Magalhaes was arrested and charged with second-degree murder and use of a firearm in commission of a felony. She has been in custody since her arrest. On September 16, 2024, a grand jury indicted Brendan Banfield, 39, on four counts of aggravated murder and one count of use of a firearm in commission of a felony for the deaths of Christine Banfield, 37, and Joseph Ryan. He has been in custody since his arrest on the same day.

Peres Magalhaes faces up to 10 years for the manslaughter charge. A sentencing date was set for March 21, 2025. Banfield's trial is set for February 3, 2025. He faces a life sentence for the aggravated murder charges.

A criminal indictment is an accusation. Brendan Banfield is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

##