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SENTENCED

‘You’re a thief of life, a murderer’

Timmy Chan gets life in prison, with possibility of parole in 20 years

By Aaron Curtis
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LOWELL » Unrelenting grief flowed from Nathaniel Fabian’s loved ones on Tuesday during his killer’s sentencing in Middlesex Superior Court. As each family member delivered a tearful victim impact statement, a photograph depicting Fabian’s smiling face lit up the many monitors in-

side the courtroom.

The man who gunned down Fabian, 21-year-old Timmy Chan, convicted earlier this month of second-degree murder, sat motionless at the defendant’s table while the heartbroken family members expressed their anguish. When they were finished, Judge Robert Ullman sentenced Chan to life in prison, with the possibility of parole after 20 years.

“People say, ‘You’re so strong.’ I am not strong. I don’t have a choice. I’m surviving,” said Fabian’s mother, Stacey Braley, during her address. “The death of a child is like losing your breath and never catching it again.”

Braley said she still has trouble getting out of bed each day, constantly reliving the night of Oct. 13, 2021 when she received the

CHAN » PAGE 7



Stacey Braley, the mother of murder victim, 20-year-old Nathaniel Fabian, and her husband, Scott Braley, during the sentencing for Timmy Chan in Middlesex Superior Court on May 28, 2024.

AARON CURTIS — LOWELL SUN

3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

TRAHAN HIGHLIGHTS BOYS & GIRLS CLUB FUNDING



PETER CURRIER — LOWELL SUN

\$2.2M for 5 clubs across district

By Peter Currier
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LOWELL » U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan and leaders of local Boys & Girls Clubs celebrated \$2.2 million in federal funding Trahan secured for the clubs in the 3rd Congressional District in a fiscal 2023 funding package.

The funding negotiated by Trahan was used to support five Boys & Girls Clubs in her district, including the clubs in Lowell, Lawrence, MetroWest, Haverhill and the Fitchburg, Leominster and Gardner club. It is being used

to fund new and existing workforce development programs at the clubs, including career pathways exploration, job skills training and work-based learning experiences for teenage club members.

Trahan came to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell Tuesday evening to highlight the funding. She said all five clubs collaborated to request the \$2.2 million, which was split evenly with each club receiving about \$400,000.

“It’s going to fill such a major need. I just learned of all the programs all the individual clubs are embarking on around the workforce, apprenticeships and career pathways,” said Trahan. “If you think about all the legislation we

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PETER CURRIER — LOWELL SUN

U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan met with leaders and members from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill, MetroWest and Leominster, Fitchburg and Gardner May 28, 2024 to highlight \$2.2 million in federal funding Trahan secured to support the clubs.

HUSH MONEY TRIAL

Trump convicted of felony crimes

It’s a first for a former president

By Michael R. Sisak,
Jennifer Peltz,
Eric Tucker,
Jill Colvin and
Michelle L. Price
The Associated Press

NEW YORK » Donald Trump became the first former American president to be convicted of felony crimes Thursday as a New York jury found him guilty of all 34 charges in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election through a hush money payment to a porn actor who said the two had sex.

Trump sat stone-faced while the verdict was read as cheering from the street below could be heard in the hallway on the courthouse’s 15th floor where the decision was revealed after more than nine hours of deliberations.

“This was a rigged, disgraceful trial,” an angry Trump told reporters after leaving the courtroom. “The real verdict is going to be Nov. 5 by the people. They know what happened, and everyone knows what happened here.”

Judge Juan Merchan set sentencing for July 11, just days before the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where GOP leaders, who remained resolute in their support in the immediate aftermath of the verdict, are expected to formally make him their nominee.

The verdict is a stunning legal reckoning for Trump and exposes him to potential prison time in the city where his manipulations of the tabloid press helped catapult him from a real estate tycoon to reality television star and ultimately president. As he seeks to reclaim the White House in this year’s election, the judgment presents voters with another test of their willingness to accept

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U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan, left, speaks at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell May 28, 2024 to highlight \$2.2 million in federal funding she secured for five clubs in her district.

Trahan

FROM PAGE 1

just passed, whether it was infrastructure, or CHIPS and Science, or inflation reduction with investments in clean energy, we need more workers."

Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg, Leominster, & Gardner CEO Elizabeth Coveney called the federal

funds "a transformative investment" in their workforce development projects.

"This support will enable us to expand our programs, fostering the next generation of leaders right here in our district. We are profoundly grateful for Congresswoman Trahan's vision and commitment to our mission, and we look forward to seeing the remarkable impact of this funding on our Clubhouse

and beyond," said Coveney.

David Ginisi, the senior director of marketing and development at the Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg, Leominster, & Gardner, said the funding for their club would be used for evolving their programs for their teenage members to help them explore a range of potential career interests.

"We are looking to build a state of the art podcast studio with this. We are



Teens from the Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg, Leominster, & Gardner explain to U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan how federal funding will support workforce development programs at their club.

looking to create and establish licensing programs. Lifeguard licensing, drivers' licensing, CNA programming, giving these kids the opportunities to develop skills that will better prepare them to enter the workforce as they move on and mature," said Ginisi.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell Executive Director Joe Hungler said

the funds would help give his club's members the resources and exposure to set themselves up for a good career in the future. As he spoke, construction surrounded the building as the club builds a new teen center.

"Our goal is to make sure that as we build this new teen center with a separate teen entrance, there is the

awesome programs that will inspire our youth by exposing them to different careers and what is possible," said Hungler. "As well as to make sure they get the skills they need and the experiences and the connections. A lot of kids could be one of the smartest kids in the world, but if they can't get their foot in the door, you can't get to the interview."

Chan

FROM PAGE 1

call that her 20-year-old son had been shot on the streets of the Highlands.

"I did not get to say goodbye," said Braley, with her husband, Scott Braley, at her side. "I did not get to hold my baby, and run my fingers through his hair, let him know that I was there for him, and that it was OK to go toward the light. Instead he died alone in an alleyway."

Fabian's grandmother, Lisa Smith, recalled being in the delivery room when Fabian was born on March 26, 2001. As other family members had done, Smith referenced Fabian's great sense of humor, his big smile and his even bigger heart.

She described him as "a daredevil on a skateboard," and a hard worker with a promising future in dentistry. Fabian worked for Lowell Dentistry for Children after graduating from the dental assisting program at Middlesex Community College.

Smith also addressed Chan directly, calling him "a coward."

"You shot seven times out on the street from 200 feet away like it was a video game, and then you ran to hide," Smith said. "But the reality is this is not a video game, this is the real world. There is no reset button or starting over. You murdered our grandson, a mistake that cannot be fixed, and there are consequences of this heinous act. ... You're a thief of life, a murderer."

Ullman described the victim impact statements "as very powerful and, quite frankly, devastating."

"I just wish that Mr. Chan and anyone who considered this kind of act of violence could hear these statements before they did what they were thinking about," Ullman said. "Unfortunately this is where we're at."

Before handing down the sentence, Ullman gave Chan an opportunity to address those in the courtroom. More than 30 of Fabian's loved ones were present in the gallery, many of whom had appeared each day throughout the trial.

"If you want to say something before I impose the sentence, now is the time," Ullman told Chan.

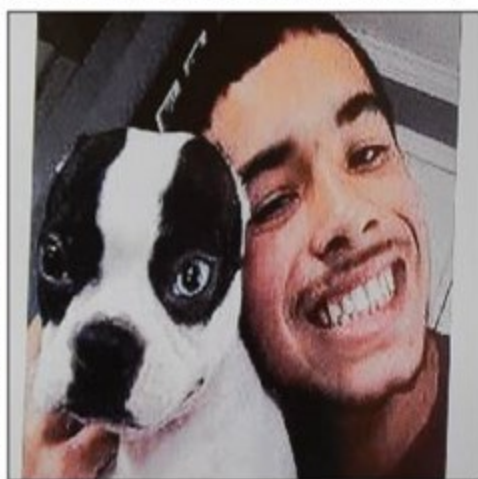
After a brief conversation between Chan, and his attorney, Jeffrey Sweeney, Sweeney revealed that Chan declined to speak.

Middlesex Assistant District Attorneys Christopher Tarrant and Ashlee Mastrangelo had pushed for the maximum sentence possible for second-degree murder: life in prison, with the possibility of parole after 25 years.

"I believe the Commonwealth's recommendation would serve a purpose of deterrence, rehabilitation, as well as punishment," Tarrant said. "But, more importantly, I think it's re-



Timmy Chan, 21, of Lowell, convicted of second-degree murder for the shooting death of Nathaniel Fabian in 2021, was sentenced to life in prison, with the possibility of parole after 20 years, in Middlesex Superior Court on May 28, 2024.



An image of Nathaniel Fabian was displayed during the sentencing for his murderer, Timmy Chan, in Middlesex Superior Court on May 28, 2024.

flective of the life lost in this case."

Sweeney countered the prosecution's request by asking Ullman to sentence Chan to the minimum sentence allowed by law, which includes life with the possibility of parole after 15 years. In doing so, Sweeney referenced Chan's lack of a criminal record leading up to the shooting, as well as the fact that his client was 19 at the time.

Sweeney also detailed Chan's tumultuous childhood, noting his client was exposed to "rather poor influences during a very tender age."

Sweeney said Chan's father was deported to Cambodia due to legal issues many years ago, while his mother "suffers from several mental health issues," including schizophrenia.

Chan's unstable youth led him to the group of people involved in the shooting, according to Sweeney. The attorney added his client has expressed remorse.

"If Mr. Chan has a wish right now, it would be to go back in time and not be around the people he was around when these events occurred," Sweeney said.

Ullman met the two sides in the middle, setting Chan's parole eligibility after 20 years, while adding "this was a totally senseless crime, and the devastation on Nathaniel's family can't

be ignored."

"If eligibility after 20 years instead of 15 years has some deterrent effect — has some ability for people like Mr. Chan to think twice before they react to a few social media posts by going out and shooting someone — then maybe something would have been accomplished," Ullman said.

Chan shot Fabian with a .45-caliber handgun on Loring Street at about 10:30 p.m. Oct. 13, 2021. Fabian, who was shot at seven times by Chan, was struck by a single bullet, which pierced his back, broke a rib, traveled through both his lungs and his heart, then exited his chest.

What led to the violence could be traced back to online bullying that was started by Samantha Chum, Fabian's ex-girlfriend. Chum had used Facebook as a forum to make fun of Thailynn Voraphonh, who testified to being in an on-again, off-again relationship with Fabian. Voraphonh ended up contacting Fabian, requesting him to put an end to the online harassment. Fabian then contacted Chum, demanding she leave Voraphonh alone.

"That sort of sparks among many group chats ... quite a bit of inflammatory and enraged arguments over the course of the evening," Mastrangelo



Stacey Braley wipes away a tear while addressing the court during the sentencing for her son's murderer, Timmy Chan, on May 28, 2024. Chan received a life sentence, with the possibility of parole after 20 years, for the killing of 20-year-old Nathaniel Fabian in Lowell in Oct. 2021.



Nathaniel Fabian was 20 when he was shot to death in the area of Loring and Westford streets in October 2021. Timmy Chan is charged with first-degree murder for allegedly pulling the trigger.

said during a hearing earlier this year.

Chum reached out to her friends, Isabella Lach (Chan's girlfriend), Jessie Sadia Segal-Wright,

Chan, and Brian Lach (Isabella Lach's brother, and Segal-Wright's boyfriend), recruiting them to confront Fabian. They complied, and the group set up a plan to meet Fabian for a fight.

During the trial, Brian Lach and Segal-Wright, who were granted immunity by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office for their testimony, implicated Chan as the gunman. Both were with Chan before and after the shooting, while Brian Lach testified he was with Chan at the time of the shooting. Segal-Wright, meanwhile, testified to using her car to drive them both from the murder scene. Isabella Lach was in the car at the time.

Chan is the only one who was charged for the crime.

When asked about the judge's decision on Tuesday to give Chan a sentence under the maximum, Stacey Braley said Ullman

"has been fair from the beginning." She added that she felt Ullman "heard us" and felt the family's pain.

The grieving mother said she wanted Chan to address her family with his own words on Tuesday — to express remorse directly to the crowd of Fabian's loved ones who had been gathering in the courtroom since Day 1 of the trial.

"It meant nothing coming from Sweeney," she said. "It would have meant more coming from him."

Stacey Braley also rejected Sweeney's comments to Ullman about Chan's "sad childhood drama," as she described it.

"Anyone at any time can change their path," she said. "You either become a product of your family or become better. There is no excuse."

Follow Aaron Curtis on X, formerly known as Twitter, @aselahcurtis

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