



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the District Attorney FOR THE NORFOLK DISTRICT

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The April 6, 2012 filing of a nolle prosequi in the Norfolk Superior Court prosecution of the March 2009 murder of Angel Ramirez withdraws the murder indictments against Paul Moccia and Daniel Bradley from consideration by the court.

The filing of the nolle prosequi was chosen because it provides no future protection from prosecution to either defendant.

The Supreme Judicial Court articulates the special responsibilities of a prosecutor in Rules of Professional Conduct at Rule 3.8, which reads in part: "The prosecutor in a criminal case shall: (a) refrain from prosecuting a charge that the prosecutor knows is not supported by probable cause; "

Because the January death by natural causes of Robert Moccia, brother of Paul Moccia and the witness on whom the case largely rested, it has impossible to sustain the Commonwealth's burden at this time.

This matter has remained under active investigation throughout its pendency in court, including the development of evidence that led to the indictment of John Murphy, of Plymouth, as accessory after the fact in December, 2011. The investigation continues.

Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said: "There is a strong possibility that there are members of the public with information relative to this homicide who have not shared that information with law enforcement. Perhaps it was not shared in the belief that the case was solved and it was not necessary to become involved, or in the belief that authorities already know what would be offered or other reasons. Now is the time for any such person to contact the Massachusetts State Police detectives in the Norfolk DA's Office. What may seem an insignificant detail to a member of the public might be key. We urge anyone with knowledge of these events or those involved to come forward."

SJC Rule 3.8 further states: "(g) except for statements that are necessary to inform the public of the nature and extent of the prosecutor's action and that serve a legitimate law enforcement purpose, refrain from making extrajudicial comments that have a substantial likelihood of heightening public condemnation of the accused."

Within that parameter, the District Attorney's Office is limited in what additional comment it can provide in a matter no longer under indictment.