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For Immediate Release

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MAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR MURDER AT NORTH CHARLESTON INN

September 15, 2021
Charleston, S.C.

Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that Tyree Shequille Johnson pled guilty to Murder and Possession of a Weapon during the Commission of a Violent Crime on the third day of his trial. The Honorable Jennifer B. McCoy honored the negotiated plea and sentenced Johnson to 30 years in prison.

Tyree Johnson was charged with Murder in October 2017 for the death of Quinnterrius Polite, which occurred at the former North Charleston Inn on February 24, 2017. The trial began Monday. Wednesday morning, Johnson plead guilty to a 30-year sentence for murder and a weapon charge. The State was prepared to show that Johnson was captured on hotel video surveillance shooting the victim six times, that he was arrested 5 days after the murder with the murder weapon, and he ultimately confessed to killing Polite. The day after the shooting, law enforcement arrested another individual with the murder, but as additional evidence came to light, it became clear that Tyree Johnson was the shooter.

Assistant Solicitors Daniel W. Cooper and Jennifer Kneece Shealy prosecuted the case for the State. Cooper said that this case was yet another example of senseless gun violence by a young man who had been previously arrested several times with firearms. While Johnson did not have an extensive prior record, he did have prior convictions for Unlawful Carrying of a Firearm in 2015, Possession of Marijuana of 2016, and Resisting Arrest in 2021. He was also arrested in November 2016 for Unlawful Carrying of a Firearm, March 2017 for Unlawful Carrying of a Firearm—which was the murder weapon in this case--, and October 2017 for Possession of a Stolen Firearm. In this case, Johnson shot the victim six times after lying in wait in the courtyard for twenty-six minutes, several of which struck the victim from behind as he tried to flee for his life. Investigator Jeff Fort and Detective Michael Powitchko from the North Charleston Police Department assisted in the prosecution of this case.

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