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Man Convicted of East Side Murder Sentenced to 50 Years

Charleston, S.C.-- Solicitor Scarlett Wilson announced today that a Charleston jury found Defendant Shannon Johnson guilty of Murder and Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime following a four-day jury trial. Johnson faced a minimum of 30 years and a maximum of Life in Prison Without Parole on the charge of murder. The Honorable R. Keith Kelly sentenced Johnson to a total of 50 years incarceration. Solicitor Wilson stated, "This case is a shining example of the serious accountability we get when the community works with us and with law enforcement to solve cases. The community's video evidence was critical in this conviction."

Assistant Solicitors Kelly Barber and Chad Simpson prosecuted the case against Johnson with the assistance of Investigator Charles Jolliff. During the jury trial, the evidence showed that Johnson shot 41-year-old Timothy Haman in the back with five shots from a .40 caliber handgun after a brief altercation on Hanover Street. Mr. Haman was attempting to flee to his home when he was shot.

The incident was captured on neighborhood surveillance cameras, which showed the shooter's distinctive clothing worn that day. Utilizing this video, the Charleston Police Department was able to locate additional video of Defendant Johnson sufficiently identifying 18-year-old Johnson as the shooter. The confrontation between Mr. Haman & Johnson began as simple verbal dispute between the two strangers on Hanover Street. While a short physical altercation ensued, the prosecution proved that it was over long before Shannon Johnson shot Mr. Haman and would not lessen the charge to Voluntary Manslaughter. The jury convicted Mr. Johnson on the most serious offense of murder. Assistant Solicitor Kelly Barber said, "this was an important conviction for the East Side community, many of whom assisted the police in solving this senseless killing."

The Ninth Circuit Solicitor's office is especially appreciative of Mr. Haman's family, who have shown great patience and restraint throughout a difficult and lengthy criminal process. The office also appreciates the hard work of the City of Charleston Police Department, particularly lead investigator Elizabeth Wolfsen, who managed the investigation and played a crucial role in the trial presentation.

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