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Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

HITMAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR 2020 MURDER-FOR-HIRE

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Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Charleston County jury found Quinton Anthony Taylor, of North Charleston, Guilty of Murder and Possession of a Weapon during the Commission of a Violent Crime. After a full week of trial, the jury returned the verdict last Friday afternoon. Taylor had previously been convicted of Burglary (Third Degree), Unlawful Carrying of a Pistol, Disturbing Schools, Unlawful Use of a Telephone, Breaking & Entering a Motor Vehicle, Possession of Cocaine Base, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Stolen Vehicle, and Possession of a Weapon. The Honorable S. Bryan Doby sentenced Taylor to Life in prison.

At approximately 4:39AM on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, Taylor, who had been tracking the Victim for days via a GPS tracker placed on the Victim's car, shot the Victim six times as he left a friend's house on Gullah Avenue in North Charleston. The North Charleston Police Department (NCPD) responded and collected video footage of the shooting from several residences and businesses nearby. NCPD also observed a black Dodge Ram pickup truck circling the area from the time the Victim arrived three hours before the murder and in the immediate aftermath of the shooting. The truck was rented from Enterprise by Taylor, who listed his address, phone number, and email address. Taylor was stopped by NCPD in the Dodge Ram, twelve hours after the murder. Inside the rental truck, police located Taylor's iPhone, a black t-shirt, as well as a purple Crown Royal bag containing a black ski mask and \$11,300 in cash.

Detectives learned that Taylor had employed the use of a GPS tracking application to continuously monitor and track the movements of the Victim in the days leading up to the murder, which corresponded to a GPS tracking device on the Victim's car. In addition, detectives located a variety of text messages and phone calls on Taylor's iPhone from nine days before the murder to the hours following the shooting, including a message minutes after the murder with a simple, one word message: "Done." Detectives were able to determine that Taylor had been hired to kill the Victim by an inmate at Evans Correctional Institution, who has since been charged with Accessory Before the Fact of Murder. Through further investigation, NCPD learned that the co-defendant coordinated with a third party to provide payment to Taylor, and cell tower location information confirmed that Taylor and the third party met briefly in West Ashley just hours before Taylor was ultimately detained by police. Crime scene investigators also located a single unfired round at Taylor's residence that matched the brand and caliber as the fired shell casings from the crime scene.

Managing Assistant Solicitor Daniel W. Cooper and Assistant Solicitor Catherine Fries prosecuted the case for the State. Cooper said "We appreciate the jury's swift verdict and the Judge's strong sentence in this case. This result wouldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts of the North Charleston Police Department, especially Detective Denis Woods and Detective Jerome DeSheers. We are thankful for their help in bringing Taylor to justice." Investigators Jennifer Butler and Jon Glenn assisted in the prosecution of this case.

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