

State of South Carolina



Charleston County
101 Meeting Street, Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29401
Phone (843) 958-1900
Fax (843) 958-1905

Berkeley County
300-B California Avenue
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Phone (843) 723-3800 ext. 4529
Fax (843) 719-4588

SCARLETT A. WILSON

Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

JUDGE SENTENCES MAN TO FIFTY-FIVE YEARS FOR MURDER IN CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

For Immediate Release
December 19, 2025

Contact: Ashley Kay
KayA@scsolicitor9.org

Charleston, S.C. – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that the Honorable Christopher D. Taylor sentenced 43-year-old Antonio Bernard Grant, of North Charleston, to fifty-five years in the State Department of Corrections following his convictions for Murder and Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime. He was convicted by a Charleston County jury of the murder of 21-year-old Markell Maxwell on May 7, 2021, following four days of trial.

Assistant Solicitors Jordan Norvell and Jewell Gearding presented the State's case which included testimony from former North Charleston Police Department Detective Jennifer Butler. Detective Butler was able to identify Antonio Grant from surveillance footage captured from multiple businesses surrounding the incident location on Parana Street in North Charleston.

Testimony at trial revealed the Defendant spent his days on Parana Street and was involved in a shooting on that street with individuals driving a gold color Chevrolet Malibu two days prior to murdering twenty-one-year-old Markel Maxwell. On May 7 around 8:34p.m., Markell Maxwell drove his similar looking gold Chevy Malibu onto Parana Street to meet a friend. Within seconds of Markell turning onto the street, the Defendant fired 17 rounds into his vehicle ultimately striking and killing Markell. Video surveillance showed the Defendant running from the area where the 17 shell casings were recovered with his arm extended and the firearm pointing at Parana Street. The weapon's slide was fully locked back, signaling the entire magazine had been emptied. SLED Firearms Analyst presented testimony that all 17 rounds recovered at the scene were fired by one gun.

The Defendant testified in his defense at trial and on cross examination, admitted to hiding from Parana Street after the victim was murdered and was also given updates on the police investigation by people in the neighborhood. The State introduced messages from the Defendant which showed the Defendant attempting to pay a "spiritual advisor" to protect him from shooting charges only an hour and a half after the victim was killed.

While Defendant was released on bond, he fled the State and ultimately was involved in a barricaded subject situation before being returned to custody.

Assistant Solicitor Jordan Norvell said, "The Defendant's deadly assumption when seeing a similar vehicle turn onto his street on May 7, 2021 cost an innocent young man his life. This jury's verdict shows again that our community does not tolerate criminals preying on our neighbors and we appreciate the Williams-Maxwell family for their support in the prosecution of this case." The State also sends gratitude to investigators at the North Charleston Police Department and Solicitor's Office Investigator Dustin Morris.

###