

News Release

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Tremaine Devon Nelson sentenced to 45 years for Murder and Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill

Charleston, S.C. – On November 12, 2009, it took a Charleston County jury less than thirty seven minutes of deliberation to find Nelson guilty of Murder and Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill (ABWIK). At the request of the Solicitor’s Office, Judge Harrington deferred sentencing until after resolution of the pending charges against the other two co-defendants.

Today, Circuit Court Judge Kristi Lea Harrington sentenced Tremaine Devon Nelson (DOB 08/11/1982) to 45 years for Murder in the July 2007 shooting death of Deshaun Brown and 20 years for Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill (ABWIK) of another victim.

At the sentencing, Assistant Solicitor Henry C. Leventis stated that, on July 13, 2007, Tremaine Nelson was “ripped off” while selling crack at an apartment complex on Calvert Street in North Charleston. Nelson left the scene, called two co-defendants, Timothy Hoard (DOB 2/7/1985) and Jaquan Christopher Bryant and met them a few minutes later. The three men returned to the scene in an SUV, exited the vehicle and fired two assault rifles, an AK-47 and M-16, repeatedly in the direction of innocent bystanders.

Deshaun Brown, 28, of North Charleston was fatally wounded in the attack. He died as a direct result of being shot in the back. Corey Watkins was permanently maimed as a result of being shot in the leg. He testified against the defendant.

Over the course of three jury trials, it was established that neither Corey Watkins, nor Deshaun Brown, had any involvement in the defendant’s prior drug deal and subsequent “rip off.” All of the evidence proved that the two victims were sitting at the crime scene talking when the three men started their directionless shooting. There were children as young as six 6 years old at the crime scene when the shooting occurred.

After the shooting, Nelson and his accomplice got back into the SUV and fled the scene. The U.S. Marshal’s Southeast Regional Task Force arrested Nelson and Bryant in Atlanta, Georgia.

“This was a senseless act of violence done to protect the defendant’s credibility as a drug dealer. The defendant committed a crime against two innocent victims and has never accepted responsibility for those crimes. Over the course of three jury trials [two for Nelson and one for his co-defendant, Timothy Hoard] Tremaine Nelson has never once expressed remorse for

his actions. In fact, he gave false testimony in support of Timothy Hoard, said Assistant Solicitor Henry Leventis.

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