

News Release

For Immediate Release
August 10, 2017

Active Blood Gang Member Sentenced to 30 Years.

Charleston, SC– August 10, 2017 Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that on August 9, 2017, Devante Antonio Grant (DOB 1/7/99) was convicted of Armed Robbery and Possession of a Weapon during Commission of a Violent Crime. The Honorable R. Markley Dennis, Jr. sentenced the defendant to the maximum 30 years on the Armed Robbery charge and 5 years on the gun charge to be run concurrent. The Defendant must serve 85% of his sentence. Solicitor Wilson stated, “The Court made the right call in giving this obstructionist armed robber a thirty-year sentence. He clearly is not a good candidate for rehabilitation.”

On January 26, 2016, Charleston Police Department responded to the Sub Station II sandwich shop in West Ashley in reference to the robbery of a vehicle. The victim, an employee of the Sub Station II, had closed the shop for the night and walked to her vehicle. After she got inside the vehicle, the Defendant approached the car, banged on the driver side window with a handgun, yelled threats at her and ordered out of the vehicle. He pointed the gun at her as she left the car. The defendant jumped into the driver seat and his co-defendant, Savon Chisolm, got in the passenger seat and they fled the scene. The victim later positively identified defendant Grant as the armed robber.

During the trial, additional incriminating evidence revealed that Grant had written an intimidating jail letter to co-defendant Chisolm as part of a blatant attempt to keep Chisolm from testifying against him. The court ordered a handwriting exemplar be taken by Grant, but he attempted to disguise his handwriting. A proper exemplar eventually was taken at which point the defendant became angry, threw down his pen, and cursed at the investigator gathering the exemplar. Despite the Defendant’s antics, a SLED handwriting analyst was able to tie the letter to Grant. In addition, Grant could also be heard on recordings trying to get his associates to get Chisolm to change his story. At trial, Chisolm (who already pled guilty to the Armed Robbery) was called to the stand by the State; however, he refused to testify, indicating Grant’s intimidation worked. Evidence at trial also revealed that Grant had tasked an associate with destroying Facebook evidence linking Grant to the crime.

At sentencing, the Court was made aware that Devante Grant had already been adjudicated for an Armed Robbery in 2014 for robbing a Chinese restaurant deliveryman at gunpoint while the deliveryman was delivering food. Grant also has been validated by the Charleston County Detention Center as a known “Blood” gang member. (The Charleston County Detention Center determines gang involvement and affiliation by using criteria set by SLED.)

Assistant Solicitor Richard Waring, who prosecuted the case, stated “With the help of the Charleston Police Department, North Charleston Police Department, and SLED, a dangerous armed robber was held accountable for his actions.” Assisting Waring were Assistant Solicitor David Osborne and Investigator Dan Eckert.

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