

State of South Carolina



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Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

For Immediate Release
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North Charleston Man Convicted of Murdering His Cousin Over Unpaid Debt

Charleston, S.C. – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that on November 7th, 2019, Gregory Kyle Green was convicted by a Charleston County jury of Murder and Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime.

On June 8, 2017 at 4:46 a.m., the North Charleston Police and Fire Departments were dispatched to a house fire at 2278 Bailey Drive in North Charleston, SC. Upon extinguishing the blaze the victim, Freeman Rivers, was found deceased inside the house located in a bathtub. The victim had a cord wrapped around his neck and had sustained four gunshot wounds to the head. A subsequent investigation by the NCPD determined that the victim had owed Green money for drugs.

At trial, a cooperating co-defendant testified that Green had called and asked to be picked up from the victim's home. When the co-defendant arrived, Green came out of the victim's house with blood on him and carrying a gun. Green and the co-defendant returned to the home and determined to set the house on fire to destroy evidence of the crime. Other witnesses testifying at the trial corroborated the co-defendant's story and timeline.

Phone records showed that the Defendant and co-defendant had been in communication around the time of the victim's murder and that the victim had been in communication with Green just prior to his death. Subsequent to his arrest phone calls made by Green from the jail were intercepted and introduced at trial. In these calls Green attempted to hire individuals to kill the co-defendant who had implicated him in the murder.

The jury deliberated for approximately 4 hours before rendering their verdict. The Honorable Perry M. Buckner sentenced the Defendant to 40 years for Murder and 5 years for Possession of a Weapon during the Commission of a Violent Crime to be served concurrently. The Defendant was found not guilty of a related Arson charge.

Assistant Solicitors Richard Waring and Whit Sowards prosecuted the case on behalf of the State of South Carolina.

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