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For Immediate Release
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Summerville Man Sentenced to Life after Jury Finds Him Guilty of Murder

Charleston, S.C. – November 11, 2018 Friday morning, Joseph Lamar Brown Jr., 20 years old, of Summerville, was found guilty of Murder, Burglary 1st Degree, Attempted Armed Robbery, and Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Violent Crime. The charges stemmed from a conspired armed robbery that Brown committed with his co-defendant, Trey Lorenzo Coleman, 26 years old, of Lincolnton, on December 23, 2016. Chief Deputy Solicitor Bruce Durant tried the case before the Honorable J.C. Nicholson. Judge Nicholson sentenced Brown to the following: life in prison – Murder; 50 years – Burglary 1st Degree; 10 years – Attempted Armed Robbery; 5 years – Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Violent Crime.

At approximately 12:50 pm on December 23, 2016, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office responded to the homicide that occurred at 705 East Thomas St. Lincolnton, SC. Upon arrival, deputies discovered that the Victim, Johnny Prichard, 46 years old, of Lincolnton, was fatally shot in the neck with a 9 mm handgun. Prior to this attempted robbery, Brown's co-defendant, Trey Coleman, was with the Victim and learned the Victim had recently received a sizeable settlement from a car accident and had a large amount of cash in his residence. Coleman alerted Defendant Brown of the cash present, and the two planned to have Brown rob the Victim at his residence. Shortly after, Brown entered the Victim's home armed with a pistol and demanded money from the Victim. The Victim attempted to defend himself when Brown shot and killed him. Defendant Brown immediately fled the area but was spotted dropping his cellphone that held messages mapping out the robbery. Several witnesses observed Brown running to where Coleman was waiting with his vehicle. Brown made it to the vehicle and Coleman dropped Brown off at his residence. Brown was arrested approximately 11 days later after a thorough investigation by the Charleston County Sheriff's Office.

Teresa Norris and Taylor Seman of the Ninth Circuit Public Defender's Office represented Brown. Chief Deputy Solicitor Bruce Durant prosecuted the case on behalf of the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office with the assistance of Chief Investigator Ray Haupt. Detective Barry Goldstein of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office was the lead detective and responsible for the investigation.

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