

News Release

For Immediate Release
April 23, 2010

Contact: Julian F. Malasi
(843) 958-1939
malasij@scsolicitor9.org

Man Convicted of Voluntary Manslaughter

Charleston, S.C. – On April 22, 2010, a Charleston County jury found Jonta Embray Green (DOB10/23/1983) guilty of voluntary manslaughter and possession of a pistol during a violent crime in the shooting death of 26 year old Brandon Parker. Upon conviction, Circuit Court Judge Deadra L. Jefferson sentenced Geen to a term of 23 years in prison.

Facts at trial showed that on the evening of September 19, 2008, the defendant pulled into the driveway at 1344 St. Claire Street in Charleston, SC. The victim, who was in the driveway hanging out with some friends, started a fight with the defendant and threw the first punch. The fight was quickly broken up by others at the scene and no one was seriously injured or hurt. When the fight ended, the defendant left the scene in his car, but things changed dramatically when the defendant returned shortly thereafter armed with a gun.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant Solicitors Rutledge DuRant and Peter McCoy, Jr.

In his closing argument, Assistant Solicitor DuRant told the jury that, “Brandon Parker’s death may as well have been written in stone when the defendant decided to return to the scene with a gun. Death was inevitable. It was foreseeable. It was certain.”

The defense maintained that the defendant merely returned to retrieve some personal items that were left behind, including a pair of prescription eye glasses and a cane. The defense characterized the bringing of the gun back to the scene of the fight as a bad decision, but maintained that the defendant was not responsible for the killing because it was either an accident or self-defense.

The prosecution argued that bringing the gun back to the scene of the fight was malicious and amounted to a total disregard for human life. “The defendant knew or should have known that if he returned, Brandon would still be upset, that another fight was very likely, and at that point, it was obvious what the gun would be used to do,” said Assistant Solicitor McCoy.

“Whether Jonta Green intended to return to the scene to kill the victim or whether he simply came to retrieve his things, at the very least, by bringing the gun back with him, he took an unnecessary chance on Brandon’s life, and ultimately, he fatally shot an unarmed man,” said Assistant Solicitor DuRant.

Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson said she was glad the jury saw things for what they were. “It was a sad case. The victim should have never started the first fight, but that doesn’t excuse the fact that the first fight had ended and the defendant returned with a gun. This was clearly not self-defense or an accident,” said Solicitor Wilson.

“This never had to happen. It was totally preventable, and it was totally within the defendant’s control. He held all the cards this night,” said Wilson.

###