

News Release

For Immediate Release
June 14, 2010

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Terrell Chandler sentenced to 50 years

Charleston, S.C. – After a five day trial, Defendant Terrell Chandler was found guilty of Murder and Possession of a Weapon during a Crime of Violence. Circuit Court Judge Roger Young sentenced Chandler to 45 years for Murder and a consecutive 5 years for Possession of a Weapon During a Crime of Violence, in the slaying of 25-year-old, Calvin Gibbs. In South Carolina, Murder (§ 16-3-10) carries a potential sentence ranging from a minimum of 30 years to a maximum of life. The jury deliberated less than two hours and returned its verdict Friday night.

Witness testimony revealed that the victim, Calvin Gibbs, was shot in the back at approximately 11:45 pm on May 30, 2008 while in a car with a female friend. According to witnesses, the defendant and three other co-defendants lured the victim over to the back area of the West Ashley Battery Street apartments to purchase drugs. Residents of the apartment complex indicated that prior to the shooting, Chandler advised them that shots would be heard later that evening and warned them to not go outside. Chandler lived in the apartments and owned an AK 47 and a semi-automatic pistol. Witnesses indicated that Chandler left the apartment with the AK 47 and returned with the rifle immediately after the shooting. The next day, Chandler asked a girlfriend to take the rifle from his home. A co-defendant, Steven Brown, who was present at the time of the shooting, indicated that it was Chandler who shot Gibbs. The remaining two co-defendants, Storme Carr and Che Carr, are also charged with Murder .

Calvin Gibbs, after being shot, drove off from the scene until he became too weak to continue. His female passenger assisted with the steering wheel while calling 911. A witness, a Vietnam veteran, who was traveling down Highway 61 at the time of the shooting testified that he could hear the sound of the rifle's bullet passing overhead as he traveled. The witness then turned around and provided assistance to Mr. Gibbs until EMS arrived.

Ninth Circuit Assistant Solicitors, Jennifer Kneece Shealy and Kriston D. Neely, indicated that Chandler's total disregard for the safety of the residents of the West Ashley community combined with the slaying of Gibbs warranted the conviction and sentencing of Terrell Chandler.

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