

News Release

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Pizza Hut Armed Robber Sentenced to 28 Years

Charleston, S.C. – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that on Friday, November 1, a Charleston County jury found defendant Kenneth Oredell Murray guilty of Armed Robbery. Following the guilty verdict, Circuit Court Judge Knox McMahon sentenced Murray to 28 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Murray had faced a range of 10 years to 30 years in prison.

Murray and an accomplice, Cleveland Clarence Major, robbed the Pizza Hut at 2161 U.S. 17 in Mt. Pleasant near closing time on Friday, July 22, 2011. Assistant Solicitor Alexander Ziegler said that Murray jumped over the counter of the Pizza Hut and pointed what was later discovered to be a BB pistol at three employees before taking money from the cash register and leaving the store. Murray confessed his involvement in the crime to Mt. Pleasant Police 10 days after the incident. The BB pistol was recovered from Murray's residence. Ziegler said, "Justice was done for three hard-working Pizza Hut employees whose routine Friday night turned into a traumatic experience. While the gun turned out to be fake, the fear they felt that night was very real."

Murray, 29, has prior convictions for Criminal Sexual Conduct, 3rd Degree, Distribution of Cocaine, and Malicious Injury to Personal Property, and previously served a 6-year sentence under the Youthful Offender Act. Murray currently faces Armed Robbery and Kidnapping charges in relation to a 2011 robbery of the Piggly Wiggly at 1981 Riviera Drive in Mt. Pleasant. The case was prosecuted by Ziegler and Assistant Solicitor Jennifer Shealy.

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