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For Immediate Release

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Solicitor Wilson Announces Motion Filed to Prosecute Juvenile as an Adult for Goose Creek Crime Spree

Moncks Corner, SC—Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced her intention to try both defendants charged with a crime spree, which resulted in three murders, in General Sessions Court. Solicitor Wilson stated, “We thoroughly reviewed the facts of the case and the factors the Judge will consider. We believe prosecuting both defendants in General Sessions Court is absolutely necessary to protect our community.”

After investigating three incidents, the Goose Creek Police Department alleges that on July 3, 2020, a juvenile and an adult co-defendant (Jabaari Ferguson, age 24) conspired to commit, and did commit, two separate armed robberies in the Sunrise Mobile Home Park and Pine Shadow Drive areas of Goose Creek. Later that same day, the same defendants attempted to commit a third armed robbery at the Oakside Mobile Home Park in Goose Creek, during which three individuals were shot and killed. Those killed were: Salvador Alonso Dominguez (age 32), Jose Torres-Padilla (age 39), and Ocasio Marquez (age 45).

The 16 year-old juvenile was charged in family court with three counts of Murder, four counts of Armed Robbery, three counts of Attempted Armed Robbery, seven counts of Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime, and four counts of Pointing a Presenting a Firearm at a Person. The adult co-defendant, Ferguson, was charged in the Court of General Sessions with committing the same offenses.

The law allows 30 days for the Solicitor to seek a transfer of jurisdiction from the Family Court to the General Sessions Court. “Last week, within the 30-day time frame, we filed the necessary paperwork to notify the Court and the Defense that we are seeking to try the juvenile as an adult,” Solicitor Wilson said. Pursuant to South Carolina law, information and records regarding juveniles cannot be disclosed directly or indirectly to anyone without a court order. Both defendants remain innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Page 2 of 2
Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office
August 11, 2020

The next step in the process is the pre-waiver evaluation that will be conducted by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). The evaluation includes a social history of the juvenile as well as a psychological evaluation. The report is likely to consider the juvenile's sophistication, maturity, and susceptibility to rehabilitation. Other issues to be addressed are adequate protection of the public as well as services and facilities currently available through DJJ which could benefit the juvenile.

After the DJJ evaluation, the Family Court will conduct a waiver hearing addressing two issues: (1) probable cause to believe the juvenile committed the crimes charged; and (2) statutory factors relating to the juvenile's amenability to rehabilitation. South Carolina law requires the Family Court judge to consider evidence regarding eight factors:

1. The seriousness of the alleged offense to the community and whether the protection of the community requires waiver;
2. Whether the alleged offense was committed in an aggressive, violent, premeditated or willful manner;
3. Whether the alleged offense was against persons or against property, greater weight being given to offenses against persons, especially if injury resulted;
4. The merit of prosecuting the complaint, i.e., whether there is evidence upon which a grand jury may be expected to return an indictment;
5. The desirability of trial and disposition of the entire offense in one court when the child's co-defendants are adults;
6. The sophistication and maturity of the child as determined by consideration of his home, environmental situation, emotional attitude and living pattern;
7. The child's prior record and involvement with the juvenile justice system; and
8. The prospects for adequate protection of the public and the likelihood of reasonable rehabilitation of the child by the use of procedures, services and facilities currently available to the family court.

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