

State of South Carolina



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TWO CONVICTED OF MURDER AND CONSPIRACY IN DRIVE-BY SHOOTING

For Immediate Release
July 15, 2025

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Charleston, S.C.-- Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a jury convicted Javar Mitchell and Jaquan Washington of Murder and Conspiracy after a four-day jury trial last week. The Honorable Judge Thomas William McGee presided over the trial and deferred sentencing so that the South Carolina Department of Probation Parole and Pardon could prepare the required pre-sentence report for Defendant Mitchell because he was 16 years old at the time he committed murder. Senior Litigator Timmy Finch prosecuted the case along with Assistant Solicitor Kasey Knox.

The jury heard testimony during the week that revealed that on July 19, 2021, four co-defendants used a stolen truck to execute a premeditated, yet random, drive-by shooting at 3:30 in the afternoon on Corral Drive in Charleston County. Javar Mitchell and Jaquan Washington were the shooters. The State sought to try Javar Mitchell as an adult, though he was 16 at the time of the shooting. He was processed through Family Court where a Judge granted the State's Motion to try Mitchell as an adult.

The quartet were out driving around the West Ashley area looking for "opps" to kill. They decided on a specific target. They used a stolen truck to locate an individual they believed to be in a rival gang. Upon a closer look, however, the two shooters realized that the eventual victim, Dontae Greene, was not a preferred and intended target. Even though Greene was unknown to them and had no prior contact with them, Mitchell and Washington were determined to shoot someone. About a dozen shots were fired toward Greene, who had been playing dice with friends. As Greene fled from the gunshots, he was struck in the head. Analysis of the casings by SLED firearms technicians determined that two separate firearms were used in the shooting.

After the shooting, the four drove to a nearby apartment complex and dispersed. Eventually the stolen truck used for the murder was located near Mitchell's residence. The four had worn gloves and were careful not to leave any physical evidence behind. Some of the gloves were bright orange.

Charleston County Sheriff's Office crime scene technicians discovered a single fingerprint that led to a witness who gave investigators the identities of the four in the truck. A gun used in the crime was recovered via arrest of an unrelated individual. That person explained that he

purchased the gun through associates of one of the defendants. When Mitchell was arrested, a search of his home yielded a pair of bright orange work gloves. Eyewitnesses confirmed that Defendants Mitchell and Washington were the individuals who fired the weapons from the vehicle that led to the victim's demise.

The remaining co-defendants will be tried at another date.

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