

News Release

For Immediate Release
November 15, 2019

Charleston County Jury Convicts Leandra Bright of Murder and Possession of a Weapon during a Violent Crime

Charleston, S.C. – On November 14, 2019, a Charleston County jury found Leandra Lamont Bright (DOB 3/3/1986) guilty of Murder and Possession of a Weapon during the Commission of a Violent Crime. Judge Markley Dennis sentenced him to 30 years with 5 years concurrent on the weapons charge.

Witnesses testified that the defendant and victim, Arthur Myers, had been in a dispute on March 29, 2016, before parting ways. At around 1:00 a.m. on March 30, 2016, the Defendant had his roommate take him to the Liberty Park Neighborhood near Rivers Ave. and I-526 where the victim was known to live. The dispute, which ultimately was determined to be drug related, reinitiated and escalated. It ended with the defendant approaching the victim's vehicle and firing three shots at close range, striking the victim in the head and torso. The victim was able to exit his vehicle after being mortally wounded and returned fire before fleeing the scene in his vehicle. The victim only made it a block away from the initial shooting scene before losing control of his car and crashing into a building at the corner of James Bell Drive and Rivers Avenue.

When the defendant was initially questioned, he told police a third party shot the victim. Eye-witness testimony and the physical evidence at the scene contradicted that version of events. It wasn't until trial that the defendant claimed self-defense. On the stand, he admitted that he and the victim had been arguing about the Defendant selling drugs to the victim's customers. The Defendant claimed this argument is what ultimately led to the shooting. The jury was not persuaded by his version of events, which were inconsistent with the physical evidence of the shooting found in the car and witness testimony.

Assistant Solicitors Shannon Elliott and David Osborne prosecuted the offender. "This case would have never been brought to trial without the diligent work of the North Charleston Police Department getting on the scene quickly and identifying witnesses. The brave citizens who were willing to speak up and say what they saw that night are the only reasons we were able to get a conviction in this case."

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