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SCARLETT A. WILSON
Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

News Release

21-YEAR-OLD SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON FOR MURDER OF 16-YEAR-OLD

Charleston, S.C. – June 19, 2023. – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Charleston County jury found Alonza Donta Marable, Jr., of North Charleston, guilty of Murder and Assault & Battery of a High & Aggravated Nature. The same jury found Marable not guilty of Attempted Murder. The jury returned the verdict late last Thursday evening after a week of trial. Marable had previously been convicted of Unlawful Carrying of a Pistol. The Honorable Deadra Jefferson sentenced Marable to 30 years in prison, the minimum sentence for Murder. Solicitor Wilson stated, “With the grit of the North Charleston Police Department and the help of the Ferndale community, we were able to put up a compelling case. In situations like this, the hand of one truly is the hand of all.”

At approximately 11:18PM on Saturday, April 18, 2020, Marable (who was 18 years old at the time) and his juvenile co-defendant (who was 15 years old at the time and who pled guilty in

Family Court to Murder and Assault & Battery of a High & Aggravated Nature prior to this trial) opened fire in the Ferndale Mobile Home Park in North Charleston. Marable armed himself with a semi-automatic rifle and armed his juvenile co-defendant with a handgun. Their target, 16-year-old Lanelle Reed, Jr., was shot and killed just outside his home. Just beyond where Reed was shot and killed, a stray bullet from Marable's rifle struck an "innocent bystander" in the head while he was asleep inside his residence. Fortunately, the bystander suffered only minor injuries.

Prior to the shooting, Marable and the juvenile co-defendant had been circling the Ferndale Mobile Home Park, looking for Reed. Video surveillance and witness testimony showed Marable's car was driving back and forth in the neighborhood before ultimately ambushing Reed and his friend as they approached Reed's house. Reed suffered one gunshot wound to the back of the head and died on scene, right in front of his home. Reed's friend was able to run away without being shot. The juvenile, who fired one shot with the handgun, likely fired the shot that killed Reed. Marable, on the other hand, fired 12 shots, including the one that struck the sleeping innocent bystander.

Assistant Solicitors Daniel W. Cooper and Kelly Barber prosecuted the case for the State. Cooper said "Marable was the architect of this entire incident: he drove the car as they stalked and hunted the Victim; he provided the weapons and ammunition used in the shooting, and, as he was three years older than his juvenile co-defendant, Marable clearly influenced the younger codefendant. This violence would not have occurred without Marable instigating it, and the jury recognized that fact." Cooper stressed, "These convictions wouldn't have happened without the tireless work of Detective David Pritchard and the North Charleston Police Department, along with cooperation from witnesses in the Ferndale community. This was a complete team effort to deliver justice for the victims." Investigator John Wilhelm (Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office) assisted in the prosecution of this case.

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