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Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

*For Immediate Release
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Man Found Guilty of Drug Trafficking Sentenced to 25 years in Prison

Charleston, S.C.--Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that after a four-day trial last week, a Charleston County Jury found Emanuel Williams, IV, guilty of Trafficking in Cocaine 10-28 grams. Williams faced a mandatory 25-year sentence, with maximum exposure of 30 years. Judge Perry H. Gravely presided and sentenced Williams to 25 years. Managing Assistant Solicitor Nina Savas prosecuted the case along with Assistant Solicitor John Mullen. Williams was represented by attorneys Helen Dovell and Claire Schulmeister of the Charleston County Public Defender's Office.

In the early morning hours on November 10, 2020, the Mount Pleasant Police Department (MPPD) responded to an Armed Robbery that occurred at Vickery's Restaurant on Shem Creek. Williams was a former employee of the restaurant and is alleged to have robbed two managers at gunpoint, firing one round into the ground upon forcing them to open a safe. MPPD's investigation led them to Williams as a suspect who was known to be staying at an apartment in North Charleston. North Charleston Police Department (NCPD) assisted MPPD with executing a search warrant and taking Williams into custody at his house. While on scene, investigators found evidence related to the Armed Robbery and items indicating narcotics activity. When Williams was searched, he had 14.17 grams of cocaine in his pocket along with \$785 in cash. The NCPD Narcotics Unit took over the scene, executed a second search warrant related to the narcotics, and charged Williams with Trafficking in Cocaine. Williams is awaiting trial for the Armed Robbery and is presumed innocent of those charges.

The jury found Williams guilty of Trafficking in Cocaine due to the statute based on the weight of drugs in his possession. At sentencing, Assistant Solicitor Savas told the Court, "Emanuel Williams is not a low-level drug dealer. This is a significant amount of cocaine coupled with items in his house that indicated he was manufacturing crack cocaine and selling drugs. Williams also has a violent crime history from Florida and a history of drug convictions. This is a third drug offense under the drug enhancement statute." Prosecutors also informed the Court that while on bond, Williams violated the terms of his GPS monitored house arrest and in previous hearings, Assistant Solicitor Savas moved to have his bond revoked, which was ultimately granted. Savas argued against crediting Williams for any time served on his house arrest based on the violations that were found. Due to the violations, Judge Gravely agreed and did not credit Williams for the time spent on house arrest.

Assistant Solicitor Savas states, "We take repeat offenders seriously. Judge Gravely's sentence shows the importance of bond revocations and puts Defendants on notice that they will not always be given credit for time spent on house arrest where there were repeated violations of bond conditions."

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