

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Naomi Nation

(843) 958-1945

WOMAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SLAYING OF ROOMMATE

Charleston, S.C.-- Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that Carmie Josette Nelson, of Summerville, pled guilty to Murder and was sentenced by the Honorable Deadra Jefferson to a negotiated 30 years in prison. Nelson had previously been convicted of Murder by a jury in May 2019 and was sentenced to Life in prison by the Honorable J.C. Nicholson, Jr. In August 2023, the Supreme Court of South Carolina overturned the conviction because the Court found that the jury should not have been allowed to see gory photos of the victim at the crime scene. The State was prepared and ready for a re-trial, which was scheduled for the week of March 25, 2024.

Managing Assistant Solicitor Daniel Cooper and Assistant Solicitor Elliott Barrow prosecuted the case for the State. Investigator John Wilhelm and Inspector Ken Driscoll of the Summerville Police Department assisted in the prosecution.

During the plea, Cooper told the Court that on April 2, 2017, Carmie Nelson murdered her roommate in the Pines of Gahagan neighborhood in Summerville. The victim, Jordan Brooke Lum, had befriended Nelson in February 2017 and had offered Nelson the opportunity to move in with her at her home. By the end of March 2017, the relationship between Nelson and Lum had deteriorated to the point that Carmie had enlisted the help of her estranged husband, Daniel Nelson, in devising several nefarious plans regarding Lum. In the days leading up to April 2, both Carmie and Lum had called 911, complaining about each other. On the morning of April 2, 2017, text messages to her husband showed that Nelson was enraged at Lum for calling 911 yet again. Texts also revealed that Daniel Nelson, who lived in a homeless camp in North Charleston, was heading to Angora Way to assist his wife in an attack against Lum. However, by the time Daniel arrived at the residence, the Defendant had already killed Lum.

Lum suffered 113 sharp-force and blunt-force wounds to her head, neck, torso, and arms, inflicted by knives, screwdrivers, and a hammer. Carmie and Daniel Nelson spent the next two days cleaning up the bloody crime scene, while consuming alcohol and pills. On April 4, 2017, Daniel Nelson secretly recorded two conversations with Carmie. During those conversations, she was heard threatening Daniel and admitting to killing Lum. Carmie described in bloody detail how she hit Lum time and time again, without stopping. Shortly thereafter, at just past 9:00PM that night, Daniel left the residence and called 911 to report the murder. Police responded and arrested Carmie Nelson inside the residence, where Lum's body was located. Daniel Nelson, who was charged with Accessory after the Fact, cooperated with law enforcement and prosecutors, describing in detail the events leading up to Lum's death, as well as the aftermath. Daniel testified in the first trial and later pled guilty to Accessory after the Fact of Murder.

Cooper stated that “Carmie’s text messages in the days prior to the murder clearly showed her hatred and vitriol towards Jordan Lum, and her recorded statements after the murder confirmed that she alone was responsible for the savage killing of her roommate. Thanks to the hard work of Inspector Ken Driscoll and the Summerville Police Department, along with the continued cooperation of Daniel Nelson, Carmie Nelson will spend the majority, if not all, of the rest of her life in prison where she belongs.”

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