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MAN SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS FOR MURDERING A MOTHER OF THREE AT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Charleston, S.C. -- Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Charleston County jury found Michael Christopher Whitlock, Jr., of Goose Creek, guilty of Murder, Attempted Murder, and Possession of a Weapon during the Commission of a Violent Crime. The jury returned the verdict last Friday afternoon after a week of trial. Whitlock had previously been convicted of Unlawful Carrying of a Pistol. The Honorable Bentley Price sentenced Whitlock to 35 years in prison.”

Solicitor Wilson stated, “This was a complete team effort to deliver justice for the victims. We could not have secured these convictions without the help of everyone involved in this case-- from the victims and their families, to the witnesses who testified, to Detective Denis Woods and the team at North Charleston Police Department.”

Testimony at trial revealed that at approximately 1:38AM on Sunday, December 22, 2019, Whitlock and co-defendant Michael Bolton opened fire into a crowd of people after a Christmas party at the Suburban Masonic Lodge in North Charleston which was hosted by Whitlock’s mother. Whitlock testified during the trial that he felt disrespected by his girlfriend. He mistakenly believed that his girlfriend and one of the surviving victims had been “making eyes” at each other

during the party. Whitlock became jealous and along with co-defendant Bolton confronted the surviving victim.

Whitlock and Bolton armed themselves before the confrontation. Once outside, Bolton chased the surviving victim's relatives with a gun before opening fire on them. The surviving victim was shot and frantically dragged himself to shelter between two cars. After Bolton emptied his gun, other partygoers, including the deceased victim Shaquanna Matthews-Myers, ran to the surviving victim's aid. At that point, Whitlock opened fire and shot 14 times, emptying his gun as well and killing Mrs. Myers. After the shooting, Whitlock and Bolton fled the scene but spoke several times. Bolton got rid of his gun, and Whitlock got rid of his empty magazine. At 4:00AM that morning, Whitlock was interviewed by the North Charleston Police Department. He lied about the extent of his involvement in the murder.

Assistant Solicitor Kelly Barber and Managing Assistant Solicitor Daniel W. Cooper prosecuted the case for the State. Barber said, "Whitlock was the catalyst of this ridiculous shootout: Whitlock felt disrespected by his girlfriend, initiated the confrontation with one of the victims, and fired 14 gunshots into a crowd of people. Even though co-defendant Bolton also fired several gunshots, this would never have happened if not for Michael Whitlock. The jury recognized that and gave the victims justice." Co-defendant Bolton pled guilty in August 2023 to Murder, Attempted Murder, and Possession of a Weapon during the Commission of a Violent Crime. He was sentenced to 30-years in prison.

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