



DATE: October 30, 2023

RE: Guilty Verdict – Tony Burton – Mall Killer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The District Attorney's Major Crimes Division announces the jury trial conviction of Tony Rodriquez Burton (40, Augusta) for the October 3, 2020 killing at the Augusta Mall, which claimed the life of Derell Demarcus Little (26, Augusta). A Richmond County jury found the defendant guilty of 2 counts of Voluntary Manslaughter and Possession of a Firearm During Commission of a Felony.

The gun that ultimately claimed the victim's life was his own. Evidence at trial revealed that this incident began as a fight in the mall. The surveillance video shows the defendant body slam the victim to the ground. The victim's friend intervenes in the altercation attempting to break them up. The defendant takes the victim's weapon from his waistband, and during the course of the fight a shot is fired and strikes an innocent bystander.

After the initial gunshot, the victim takes off running and the defendant chases him through the mall with the gun. Surveillance shows the unarmed victim running away as the defendant chases him into a clothing store. Patrons of the store are put at risk for their lives as the defendant shoots multiple times.

While the Grand Jury found that the evidence established sufficient probable cause for murder charges, the trial jury found the defendant guilty of Voluntary Manslaughter. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison, plus a \$100,000 fine.

"This wasn't self-defense." ADA Guillory stated. "You don't have the right to end a fight in this way, at a crowded mall putting innocent lives at risk."

Assistant District Attorney Randi Guillory of the Major Crimes Division conducted this trial, alongside her co-counsel, ADA Sarah Elizabeth Strickland. DA Investigators Sam Long and Billy Kitchens, and Legal Assistant Patsy Smith provided support to the trial team. Victim Advocate Courtney Menard supported the victim's family during the court process.

End of Release.