

NEWS RELEASE

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2 defendants convicted in Charlotte murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Two men charged in the 2015 murder of 29-year-old Robert Griffin have been convicted. Shawn Joneal Savage's trial, which began January 28, 2019, ended this week with a guilty verdict, and Montreal Forman entered a guilty plea today. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Savage, 30, for 1) first-degree murder, 2) two counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. At the close of the State's evidence, Judge Bridges granted the defense's motion to dismiss the charge of first-degree murder, allowing the State to proceed instead with second-degree murder and voluntary manslaughter. On February 6, 2019, the jury found Savage *guilty* of two counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury found him *not guilty* of second-degree murder and voluntary manslaughter. After the jury's verdict, Savage admitted his status as an armed habitual felon. Judge Bridges sentenced him to a total of 134-182 months in prison.

Today, Forman, 28, pled guilty to second-degree murder. Judge Bridges sentenced him to 168-214 months in prison.

In October 2015, Forman, Savage, the victim and another man were playing cards at Forman's home on Davis Avenue in Charlotte. A dispute over money broke out, and Mr. Griffin argued with Forman. Forman then produced a gun and shot Mr. Griffin multiple times. They both fell to the floor as they struggled. That is when Savage shot at them multiple times, striking both men. Mr. Griffin died at the scene. Forman was hospitalized and later arrested. Savage fled the scene and was arrested the following day. Numerous children were inside the home at the time of the shooting.

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