

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Murderer receives life sentence; accomplices also sent to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – This week, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team sent three defendants to prison for convictions connected to the 2011 murder of Larry Dean Wallace, Jr., 40. One of the defendants, Robert Lee McPhail, will spend the rest of his life in prison.

The trial against McPhail, 40, began April 8, 2013, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge.

McPhail was tried for 1) first-degree murder, 2) robbery with a dangerous weapon and 3) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. On April 17, 2013, the jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Sumner sentenced McPhail to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*, as well as an additional 38-55 months in prison.

Today, Damon Kenneth Grimes, 39, pled guilty to second-degree murder. Judge Sumner sentenced him to 165-207 months in prison.

Ngai Yaree Sutton, 39, previously pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) robbery with a dangerous weapon. Sutton, who testified for the State during the trial against McPhail, was sentenced today to 138-175 months in prison.

In April 2011, Mr. Wallace had arranged to buy marijuana at Grimes' home on Woodstone Drive in Charlotte. When Mr. Wallace and a friend arrived at the home, Grimes let them inside. Soon, Sutton and McPhail, who was armed with an AK-47, entered the home. McPhail held Mr. Wallace at gunpoint while Sutton took the victim's money. Mr. Wallace did not fight back and raised his hands in the air. That's when McPhail shot him in the chest. Mr. Wallace died at an area hospital.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA

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Robert Lee McPhail



Damon Grimes



Ngai Yaree Sutton