

NEWS RELEASE

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Murderer sentenced to life in prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – James E. Currie, 29, will spend the rest of his life in prison following a jury's guilty verdict today for the 2010 murder of Brooks Crist, 28. The trial began April 14, 2014, in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Currie for first-degree murder. Today, the jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Boner sentenced Currie to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

In August 2010, Currie and an associate made arrangements to illegally buy a gun from a man in Charlotte. The associate gave the man money and received a bag containing what he believed to be a gun. Currie later realized that there was no gun in the bag, and he called the man, demanding that his money be returned. When the man refused, Currie said he would start killing people until he got his money.



James Currie

Currie then went to the home of Mr. Crist, who was a friend of the man who'd taken Currie's money. As Mr. Crist left his apartment on Lake Forest Drive in Charlotte, Currie opened fire, shooting Mr. Crist in the back. Currie then shot Mr. Crist six times in the chest as he lay on the ground. Mr. Crist's two young sons witnessed the shooting.

Currie fled the state after the murder. The following month, authorities in New York arrested him on the outstanding warrant for Mr. Crist's murder. At that time, he was also a suspect in an unrelated murder that occurred in September 2010 in Inwood, New York. In 2011, a New York jury found Currie guilty of murder and other offenses. In that case, Currie was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Currie will serve the sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder of Mr. Crist at the conclusion of his sentence for the New York murder.

James Farris Hodges was also charged in connection with Mr. Crist's murder. Hodges pled guilty in January 2013 to accessory after the fact to first-degree murder. He will be sentenced at a later date.

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