

NEWS RELEASE

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Homicide trial ends with conviction

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team recently tried Deonte Montez Lanier in connection with the 2012 death of Johnny Peay, 25. The trial began April 4, 2016, in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, Superior Court Judge.

Lanier, 25, was tried for 1) first-degree murder, 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 3) attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon and 4) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. On April 25, 2016, the jury found Lanier *guilty* of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury was unable to reach unanimous verdicts on the remaining charges. As a result, Judge Caldwell declared a mistrial as to those charges.



Deonte Lanier

After the verdict, prosecutors – who carefully analyzed the evidence as it was presented at trial and the likelihood of success at another trial – allowed Lanier to plead guilty to attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon. Lanier was sentenced to 67-93 months in prison.

In September 2012, Lanier and a codefendant planned to rob Mr. Peay during a drug transaction at his home on Garibaldi Avenue in Charlotte. During the course of the robbery attempt, Mr. Peay was fatally shot in the back as he turned to run into his home.

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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