

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Ellis Royster to spend life in prison for 2-year-old's murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Ellis Eugene Royster, 25, will spend the rest of his life in prison after a jury found him guilty today of first-degree murder for the 2010 killing of 2-year-old Amias Robinson.

The trial began May 20, 2013, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. Royster was tried for first-degree murder.

After deliberating for about two hours, the jury returned a verdict today of *guilty* as charged. Judge Bell sentenced Royster *to life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

On August 12, 2010, Royster's friend was robbed of \$10 when he tried to purchase marijuana on Eastbrook Road in Charlotte. Royster got his gun and sent a text message to the man who'd taken his friend's money, telling him to return the cash or stay out of his neighborhood. The man soon returned and passed by without returning the money. That's when Royster pulled out the gun and began shooting at the car, firing 11 gunshots.

When the shooting occurred, a group of girls were walking along Eastbrook Road, pushing a stroller that carried Amias, who was visiting with his older cousins. One of the bullets struck Amias in the neck. He died four days later.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office would like to thank the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, the witnesses and the jury for their service and for their help in protecting our community against the kind of senseless violence that killed Amias.

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



Ellis Royster

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