

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

July 13, 2011

Murderer tried and convicted; sentenced to life in prison

CHARLOTTE, NC – Christopher Patrick Jones, age 20, was found guilty of First-Degree Murder in the death of Mr. Benizer Graham, Jr. Additionally, Jones was found guilty of the Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. The jury rendered its verdicts on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, in courtroom 5370 of the Mecklenburg County Courthouse.

The Honorable F. Lane Williamson, Superior Court Judge, imposed the sentence of *life in prison without the possibility of parole*. In addition to the life sentence, Judge Williamson imposed another 16-20 months in prison for the firearm conviction.

Mr. Graham was shot and killed by Jones on October 12, 2009, a little after 4:00 p.m., as he was walking through the parking lot of his apartment complex after visiting a friend. Jones chased Mr. Graham into a nearby apartment as he continued to shoot multiple times. Mr. Graham died as a result of three fatal gunshot wounds.

// End //



Christopher Jones