

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury's verdict results in life sentence for man who murdered teenager

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Deon Quintin McDonald will spend the rest of his life in prison for the murder of 18-year-old Azjee “AJ” Rolanda Pierce and the shooting of another man. The trial, which ended today with the jury's guilty verdict, began on September 12, 2016, in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judge.

McDonald, 22, was tried for 1) first-degree murder, 2) assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury, 3) robbery with a dangerous weapon and 4) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. The jury found McDonald *guilty* as charged. Judge Evans sentenced him to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*, as well as an additional 73-100 months in prison.



Deon McDonald

On Halloween night in 2013, McDonald and his codefendant, Harold Lindsey, made arrangements to buy marijuana. The victims met McDonald and Lindsey on Rosecroft Drive in Charlotte. After McDonald and Lindsey approached the surviving victim's vehicle, which was being driven by Ms. Pierce, McDonald and Lindsey began shooting into the car where the victims were sitting. Before they fled, they robbed the male victim of an ounce of marijuana.

Ms. Pierce suffered a fatal gunshot wound to her neck, and she was pronounced deceased at the scene. The male victim was shot multiple times but survived.

“Her life was worth more than an ounce of marijuana,” Assistant District Attorney Max Diaz told jurors during his closing argument as he showed them a photograph of Ms. Pierce. “Her life was priceless.”

Lindsey pled guilty in August to second-degree murder and assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury. He was sentenced to a total of 392-495 months in prison.

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