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NEWS RELEASE

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Man pleads guilty to voluntary manslaughter

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – After jurors indicated they would be unable to reach a unanimous verdict, Anthonio Farrar pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter in connection with the 2013 murder of 19-year-old Benjamin McDaniel. The trial was held Dec. 2-17, 2019, before The Honorable Lisa C. Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Farrar, 27, was tried for second-degree murder. On December 17, 2019, the jurors informed the court that they had been unable to reach a verdict. Judge Bell instructed them to continue deliberating. It was then that Farrar decided to plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter. Judge Bell sentenced him to 38-58 months in prison.

The case was originally tried in 2015, and a jury at that time found him guilty of second-degree murder. Farrar appealed the conviction. In 2017, the N.C. Court of Appeals overturned the conviction, granting Farrar a new trial.

On New Year's Day in 2013, Farrar and his codefendant, Dontae Torrance, arranged to meet with Mr. McDaniel on Goldfields Drive in Charlotte to purchase marijuana. Torrance gave Mr. McDaniel $500, but Mr. McDaniel and his friends quickly realized that the money was counterfeit, and they confronted Farrar and Torrance. Torrance ran away. One of Mr. McDaniel's friends struck Farrar, who then pulled out a gun and shot the man in the chest. After seeing Farrar shoot his friend, Mr. McDaniel turned and ran away. That's when Farrar shot Mr. McDaniel in the back. Mr. McDaniel was pronounced dead at an area hospital, and the other victim survived. Farrar testified at both trials that he acted in self-defense.

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