

NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

January 25, 2018

Murderer sentenced to life in prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Carico Rodriguez Hayward was sentenced today to spend the rest of his life in prison after a jury found him guilty of the 2016 killing of Ellis Bradham. The trial began January 16, 2018, in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge. Court was not held on January 15, 2018, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and court was closed January 17-18, 2018, due to inclement weather.

Hayward, 29, was tried for first-degree murder. Today, the jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Sumner sentenced Hayward to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

On December 19, 2016, a woman called Charlotte-Mecklenburg police to report that her 27-year-old brother, Mr. Bradham, was missing. The day before, he had visited friends, including Hayward, at an apartment. Mr. Bradham had not been seen or heard from since. Police began a missing person investigation. Four days later, on December 23, Mr. Bradham's body was discovered in the woods along Bellhaven Boulevard in Charlotte. He had been fatally shot.

Hayward was wearing an electronic monitor at the time of the murder, and police discovered that his monitor showed he was in the same woods the day Mr. Bradham disappeared. When confronted with this information, Hayward confessed to the murder.

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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Carico Hayward