

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

February 10, 2020

Man sentenced to life in prison for murder of the "Paperman"

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Nearly three years to the date that 65-year-old Walter "Wes" Edwin Scott, Jr., was murdered as he delivered the news in uptown Charlotte, his killer has been sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison. The trial of Roger Timothy Best began on January 27, 2020, and ended today with the jury's guilty verdict. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Louis A. Trosch, Jr., Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Best, 25, for 1) first-degree murder, 2) attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon and 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Trosch sentenced him to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*, as well as an additional 101-146 months in prison.

In the early morning hours of February 15, 2017, Mr. Scott, a newspaper carrier for the Charlotte Observer, was delivering copies of the newspaper in uptown Charlotte. He stopped at a 7-Eleven store on West Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, leaving his truck running as he stepped inside the store to collect old papers and drop off that day's edition.

As he returned to his truck, Best and an unknown accomplice approached. In a robbery attempt, Best raised a handgun and ultimately fired 12 times, shooting Mr. Scott multiple times. As he was being shot, Mr. Scott, a volunteer South Carolina constable, was able to pull out his own gun. He fired once, shooting Best in the abdomen. As gunshots rang out, the unknown accomplice fled. Mr. Scott, who was widely known as "the Paperman," collapsed and died at the scene.

Best then ran from the scene and was captured on surveillance footage dropping the murder weapon into a nearby bush. He also placed a glove he was wearing in a recycling bin. Then, he flagged down officers only a few blocks from the murder scene, seeking help for his gunshot wound. Officers tended to his wound, and he was rushed into surgery.

Investigating officers quickly located the discarded gun and glove. Both were tested, and Best's DNA was found on both items. The glove that matched the one found in a recycling bin was in Best's pocket. A firearm analysis determined that the bullets fired at Mr. Scott were from the gun Best tossed in the bush and that the bullet retrieved from Best's abdomen was fired from Mr. Scott's gun.

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.

// End //

