

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

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Man sentenced to life in prison for 22-year-old's murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, Robert Wilson Driver was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison after a jury found him guilty of the 2017 murder of 22-year-old Bryan Ja'Quan "BJ" Thompson and the shootings of two other men. The trial, which began February 24, 2020, was held before The Honorable Louis A. Trosch, Jr., Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Driver, 30, for 1) first-degree murder, 2) two counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, 3) attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon and 4) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Trosch sentenced Driver to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

On the evening of February 24, 2017, Mr. Thompson and two friends were playing cards in the garage of a home on Yorkdale Drive in Charlotte. Driver and an unknown accomplice snuck into the garage and approached the victims. Driver, who was armed with a shotgun, struck one victim with the butt of his gun and demanded the victim's belongings. Another victim began to run and was shot in the back by Driver's accomplice. That victim managed to run to a nearby home where the residents helped him and called 911. Then, Driver fired his shotgun twice, shooting Mr. Thompson in the chest and upper arm and the other victim in the abdomen. Paramedics transported all three victims to a local hospital. Mr. Thompson was pronounced deceased at the hospital. His two friends survived.

One of the surviving victims identified Driver by his nickname because he knew him from a neighborhood store. Driver's cellphone records show that his phone was moving toward the scene in the timeframe leading up to the shooting, and after the shooting, his phone moved away from the scene.

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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