

NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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Man sentenced to life in prison for murder of 2-year-old boy

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, a jury's guilty verdict sent Patrick Jamaal Chambers to prison for the rest of his life, securing justice for 2-year-old Drakeford Watts. The trial, which began April 22, 2019, was held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Donnie Hoover, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Chambers, 33, for first-degree murder. Today, the jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Hoover sentenced Chambers to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

In July 2016, Drakeford was found unresponsive at his Charlotte home and was soon pronounced deceased at an area hospital. The medical examiner found that he suffered blunt force trauma with massive injuries to his abdomen, as well as head trauma. Chambers was living in the home with Drakeford's mother.

Drakeford was less than three months shy of his third birthday.

In 2018, the child's mother, Tenisha Wells, pled guilty to felony child abuse (by grossly negligent omission) in connection with Drakeford's death.

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