

NEWS RELEASE

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Man sentenced to 72 years in prison after jury convicts him of shooting at officers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who fired gunshots at police days after committing an armed robbery has been sentenced to at least 72 years in prison. The trial, which began May 16, 2016, ended today with the jury's guilty verdict. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Gregory R. Hayes, Superior Court Judge.

Ramar Dion Benjamin Crump, 26, was tried for 1) two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill, 2) two counts of assault on a law enforcement officer with a firearm, 3) nine counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, 4) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, 5) 10 counts of second-degree kidnapping and 6) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury found him *not guilty* of the assault on a law enforcement officer with a firearm charges and *guilty* of all remaining charges. Judge Hayes sentenced Crump to a total of 872-1,203 months in prison.



Ramar Crump

On September 29, 2013, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police responded to a parking lot on North Tryon Street in Charlotte after someone called 911 to report that he'd seen men loading guns inside a vehicle parked there. As police arrived, two officers began to approach the area of the vehicle when Crump, who was in the driver's seat of the car, began shooting at the officers. After firing six shots at the officers, Crump sped away in his vehicle. One of the initial shots struck a dump truck behind the spot where one of the officers had been standing – only 12 inches from the officer's head.

Police pursued Crump's vehicle for more than 20 miles, traveling into Cabarrus County, where the vehicle was disabled and its occupants were ordered out of the car. That's when Crump and his codefendants, Jamel Lewis and Warren Lewis, were taken into custody. In the trunk of Crump's car, investigators found additional guns, as well as identification cards and credit cards belonging to other people. Those items allowed police to connect Crump and Jamel Lewis to a robbery that occurred days earlier on September 24, 2013. In that incident, Crump and Jamel Lewis robbed several people who were playing poker at a business on Old Pineville Road in Charlotte. Armed with guns, they forced the victims to line up against a wall and strip down to their undergarments before barricading the victims in a bathroom. Then, Crump and Jamel Lewis fled with the victims' money, cellphones, credit cards and other items.

Both Jamel Lewis and Warren Lewis previously pled guilty for their roles in connection with these crimes.

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