

# NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray  
District Attorney

August 17, 2015

## Jury's verdict sends Antonio Farrar to prison for murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Antonio Shontari Farrar, 23, was sentenced today to at least 18 years in prison for the murder of Benjamin McDaniel, 19. The trial began July 27, 2015, in courtroom 5130 before The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Farrar for 1) murder and 2) assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury. On August 14, 2015, the jury found him *guilty* of second-degree murder. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the assault offense, and as a result, Judge Levinson declared a mistrial in regard to that charge. Today, Judge Levinson sentenced Farrar to 225-282 months in prison for the murder offense.



Antonio Farrar

On New Year's Day in 2013, Farrar and his codefendant, Dontae Torrance, arranged to meet with Mr. McDaniel on Goldfields Drive in Charlotte to purchase marijuana. Torrance gave Mr. McDaniel \$500, but Mr. McDaniel and his friends quickly realized that the money was counterfeit, and they confronted Farrar and Torrance. Torrance ran away. One of Mr. McDaniel's friends struck Farrar, who then pulled out a gun and shot the man in the chest. After seeing Farrar shoot his friend, Mr. McDaniel turned and ran away. That's when Farrar shot Mr. McDaniel in the back. Mr. McDaniel was pronounced dead at an area hospital, and the other victim survived. After the shooting, Farrar fled to New York.

In finding Farrar guilty, the jury rejected his claim of self-defense.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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