

NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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Jury convicts man in 2017 fatal shooting

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A jury has convicted George Fernandez in connection with the 2017 killing of 23-year-old Jamario Lacatria McNeely. The trial was held before The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judge. Jury selection was held during the week of October 7, 2019. Court was closed the following week as judges attended a conference, and the trial resumed on October 21, 2019.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Fernandez, 29, for first-degree murder. On October 24, 2019, the jury found him *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of voluntary manslaughter. Judge Archie then sentenced Fernandez to 64-89 months in prison, the maximum penalty Fernandez could receive for this offense under state law.

In August 2017, Fernandez and Mr. McNeely were involved in an ongoing argument. During the course of this argument on Pleasant Dale Drive in Charlotte, Fernandez pulled out a shotgun and fired four times, striking Mr. McNeely each time. He was pronounced deceased at the scene. At trial, Fernandez claimed he acted in self-defense, defense of others and defense of his home.

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