

District Attorney's Office
State of North Carolina
26th Prosecutorial District
Mecklenburg County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Man pleads guilty in homicide after jury convicts him of firearm offense

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – After a jury convicted Zhaymilik Phillips of a firearm offense but could not reach unanimous decisions on the remaining charges, Phillips pled guilty in connection with the June 2016 death of 30-year-old Tony Jamarr Russell. The trial, which began July 12, 2021, was held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Gregory R. Hayes, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Phillips, 29, for 1) first-degree murder, 2) assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill, and 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. On July 22, 2021, the jury found him *guilty* of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon; however, the jury was unable to reach unanimous verdicts for the other two charges. As a result, Judge Hayes declared a mistrial as to those two offenses. Today, Phillips pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter. Judge Hayes sentenced Phillips to 72-99 months in prison.

Charges remain pending against two codefendants in this case.

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