

District Attorney's Office

State of North Carolina

26th Prosecutorial District

Mecklenburg County

www.charmeckda.com

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III

District Attorney

October 3, 2022

Jury finds man guilty of voluntary manslaughter

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – After a three-week trial, a jury has found a man guilty of voluntary manslaughter and other offenses in connection with the 2019 killing of 46-year-old Reginald Lawrence. The trial, which was held September 12-29, 2022, took place in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Kimberly Best, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Carlton Benbow, 49, 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. The jury found him *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of voluntary manslaughter, assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. During sentencing, the State argued that aggravating factors, including that the crime was committed in the presence of a minor, existed in this case. The jury agreed and found the existence of two aggravating factors. Accordingly, the State asked for a sentence in the aggravated range. Judge Best sentenced Benbow in the presumptive range, ordering the defendant to 67-93 months in prison.

Over Thanksgiving weekend in 2019, Mr. Lawrence was visiting Charlotte and was outside with others in the parking lot of an apartment complex. Benbow, who lived at the complex, came outside and approached the group. An argument ensued. Benbow fatally shot Mr. Lawrence and then fired at Mr. Lawrence's adult stepchild but missed. At trial, Benbow claimed he acted in self-defense.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, follow @CharMeckDA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

// End //