

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

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NEWS RELEASE

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Man sentenced to life in prison after jury finds him guilty of murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, Jamaal Griffin was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison after a Mecklenburg County jury found him guilty of the June 2018 murder of 32-year-old Churchill Randolph Zoker. The trial, which was held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Patrick T. Nadolski, Superior Court Judge, began May 1, 2023, and ended today with the jury's verdict.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Griffin, 38, for 1) first-degree murder, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, and 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. After deliberating for less than two hours, the jury found Griffin *guilty* of first-degree murder under all three theories of the charge (premeditated and deliberated, the felony murder rule, and lying in wait). The jury also found him *guilty* of conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Judge Nadolski then sentenced Griffin to the mandatory sentence of *life in prison without the possibility of parole*, as well as an additional 14-26 months in prison.

Charges remain pending against a codefendant in this case.

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