

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

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NEWS RELEASE

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Jury convicts man of murdering Charlotte store owner

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The man who fatally shot Massaquoi Kotay, a Charlotte store owner, has been sentenced to life in prison after a jury found him guilty of murder and a firearm offense. The trial, which began May 15, 2023, ended today with the jury's guilty verdict. The Honorable Matt J. Osman, Superior Court Judge, presided over the trial.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Shalome Scott, 28, for 1) first-degree murder and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Osman then sentenced Scott to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

Mr. Kotay, 45, was a Liberian immigrant who owned the North End Convenience Store on North Tryon Street. He was working in the store in January 2017 when Shalome Scott and Desmond Black walked into the store together. Scott, who was armed with a gun, then shot Mr. Kotay and fled the store. Mr. Kotay died as he ran to a neighboring store for help.

Desmond Black previously pled guilty in connection with the crime.

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