

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

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# NEWS RELEASE

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III  
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## Jury convicts man of second-degree murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Dareem Gaskin was sentenced to prison today after a jury found him guilty of fatally shooting 28-year-old Deante Brown. The trial, which began on November 4, 2024, and concluded with today's sentencing, was held in courtroom 5110 before the Honorable Donald R. Cureton Jr., Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Dareem Gaskin, 31, for 1) first-degree murder, 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and 3) discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle in operation. The jury found him *guilty* of the lesser-included offense of second-degree murder and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and *not guilty* of discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle in operation. During sentencing, the State argued that, because the defendant knowingly created a great risk of death to more than one person by means of a weapon or device which would normally be hazardous to the lives of more than one person, an aggravating factor existed. The jury agreed and found the existence of that aggravating factor. Sentencing the defendant in the aggravated range, Judge Cureton sentenced him to 276-344 months in prison. Gaskin was also ordered to pay restitution to the victim's family.

On September 6, 2020, the defendant had a disagreement with a female acquaintance. After the disagreement, the acquaintance went to her residence and informed her longtime boyfriend, Deante Brown, about the disagreement with the defendant. Shortly thereafter, Deante Brown called the defendant on the phone. The defendant instructed Deante to meet on West Trade Street so the two could fight. A friend drove Deante to the location. Surveillance video at the location shows that when he arrived, Deante walked towards the defendant, removed his shirt to show the defendant that he was unarmed, and started to raise his fists for a fist fight. As Deante approached the defendant, the defendant raised a gun and shot at Deante who turned and ran. The defendant fired multiple shots striking Deante in the back once. Deante got back into the car and his friend drove to the hospital where Deante Brown passed away. Detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department recovered nine discharged cartridge casings at the scene. Laboratory tests concluded that all nine of them came from the same gun.

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