

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 in 2019 gas station murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Richard Grier was sentenced to life in prison for the 2019 stabbing death of 32-year-old Andrew Allen after a jury found him guilty of first-degree murder. The trial, which began February 5, 2025, and concluded with today's verdict, was held in courtroom 5370 before the Honorable George C. Bell, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Richard Grier, 61, for first-degree murder. The jury found him *guilty as charged*. Judge Bell sentenced him to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Around 2:00 am on May 18, 2019, Richard Grier was yelling homophobic slurs at groups of passersby while he stood in the parking lot of the Shell gas station at the intersection of South Blvd. and East Blvd. The victim happened to walk by and Grier hurled insults at him prompting a verbal altercation. Grier brandished a pocketknife during the exchange before returning to his truck to retrieve a bayonet-style knife with a 6.5 inch blade. The victim began to walk away at which point Grier stabbed the victim 11 times. Witnesses at the gas station and across the street captured video of the incident on cell phones and a dash cam. Grier then got into his truck and fled. Eyewitnesses from the gas station provided vehicle and suspect information to responding officers of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. Officers a block and a half from the gas station encountered Grier in his truck traveling at a high rate of speed and initiated a pursuit along West Boulevard. Grier failed to yield to officers and ran multiple red lights before continuing onto I-77 Northbound. Grier reached speeds over 100 mph for the next 4.5 miles before stopping his vehicle in the travel lane of the LaSalle/Atando exit. Grier told officers prior to being arrested, "I know I'm going to jail." A search of Grier's truck revealed the bayonet used in the murder. DNA testing confirmed that suspected blood found on Grier's leg, the truck's gas pedal, the truck's steering wheel, and the bayonet-style knife came from the victim.

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