

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Man sentenced to life in prison for murder of Charlotte cell phone store owner**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Tyrone Miller was sentenced to life in prison today for the 2019 shooting death of 29-year-old Elchin Khalilov after a jury found him guilty of first-degree murder and multiple other charges. The trial, which began on May 12, 2025, was held in courtroom 5370, before the Honorable Sally Kirby-Turner, Superior Court Judge. Court was in recess from May 26-June 2 and again from June 12-16.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Tyrone Miller, 34, for 1) first-degree murder, 2) common law robbery, and 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury found him *guilty as charged*. Judge Kirby-Turner sentenced Miller to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the first-degree murder charge and a consecutive sentence of 22-36 months in prison for the remaining charges.

On the morning of January 14, 2019, Elchin Khalilov, the victim, was working at his cell phone repair store on N. Sharon Amity Rd. Surveillance video showed that Tyrone Miller entered the store with the hood of his sweatshirt up to conceal his identity. He then pulled a .45 caliber handgun out of the front pocket of the sweatshirt and told the victim three times to close his eyes. Miller then shot the defendant in the neck from a close distance. Miller demanded to know the location of money. The victim directed Miller to the money while begging for help and told Miller, "Take all of it." Miller then directed the victim to not move as the victim said, "I'm dead." Miller took two backpacks, which contained a large amount of cash, a flash drive, the victim's journal, and multiple cellphones, and calmly exited, leaving Mr. Khalilov to die. A witness from a neighboring business called 911 and was able to provide a description of the person he saw leaving the victim's store.

Early that same afternoon, and continuing for several days, Miller began sending out pictures to friends and family of large amounts of cash and a Ruger .45 caliber handgun. Around 9:45 p.m. that night, police in Liberty, NC conducted an unrelated traffic stop on a car in which Miller was a passenger. Miller was asked to empty his pockets, and he removed \$2200 in cash and a flash drive. He was arrested for minor offenses and released that night. Pictures taken of him by officers that evening showed him wearing a collared shirt matching one worn under the hooded sweatshirt by the shooter in the cell phone store earlier that day.

Miller then went to Efland, NC where he stayed with a friend for several weeks before returning to Charlotte. Cell phone data revealed that during this time, Miller was searching the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's website to see if there were active warrants out for his arrest.

On February 9, 2019, Miller pawned a cellphone that came from the victim's store at a Charlotte pawn shop. Then on February 12, 2019, detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department obtained warrants for Miller's arrest for the murder of Elchin Khalilov. In a Facebook post on February 17, 2019, Miller posted, "Having a warrant is basically like adult hide and seek."

Miller then took a bus to Dallas, Texas. Detectives with CMPD, working with the FBI and law enforcement in Texas, tracked Miller to a Dallas hostel where he was arrested on February 18, 2019. In a backpack he had on him, detectives found another cell phone that came from the victim's store, the victim's journal and flash drive, and documents related to Miller's Liberty, NC arrest.

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

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