

**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 returns not guilty verdict in homicide trial

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Yesterday, Zatario Stewart was found not guilty of the August 2020 shooting death of 27-year-old Cory Carpenter. The trial, which began on September 8, 2025, and concluded with yesterday's verdict, was held in courtroom 5370 before the Honorable Sherri W. Elliott, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Zatario Stewart, 33, for 1) first-degree murder and 2) accessory after the fact to first-degree murder. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty*.

Stewart's co-defendant was previously convicted of charges related to the murder.

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