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NEWS RELEASE

January 22, 2026

Man sentenced to life in prison for shooting that killed bystander, injured one

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Today, Hubert Wilkinson was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison after a jury found him guilty of a shooting that killed 44-year-old Lawrence Crank and injured another man. The trial, which began on January 12, 2026, and concluded with today's verdict, was held in courtroom 5370 before the Honorable Clifton H. Smith, Superior Court Judge.

Hubert Wilkinson, 34, was tried for 1) first-degree murder, 2) assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, and 3) attempted first-degree murder. The jury found him *guilty as charged*. For the first-degree murder charge, Judge Smith sentenced him to life in prison without the possibility of parole. He was sentenced to a consecutive sentence of 180-228 months in prison for the attempted first-degree murder charge, and judgment was arrested for the remaining charge.

On the afternoon of June 29, 2020, Hubert Wilkinson followed a male customer into a convenience store on Tuckaseegee Road. Surveillance video showed the customer speaking to multiple people inside as Wilkinson watched him from across the store. As the customer was speaking to someone near the front of the store, Wilkinson approached from the back, removed a handgun from his waistband, and fired three shots before fleeing the scene. Two of the shots struck the customer, and the third shot struck Lawrence Crank, who was waiting in line to pay for merchandise. Crank was pronounced deceased at the scene while the customer was taken to the hospital for his injuries which required surgery.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, follow @CharMeckDA on Facebook, X, & Instagram.

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