



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Columbia teen sentenced to 30 years in prison for 2019 fatal shooting

Howard County, MD (March 17, 2022) – Curtis Shelton Buckner, age 18, of Avalanche Way in Columbia, was sentenced today to life in prison suspend all but 30 years in the fatal shooting of Ronald Carolina, Jr. in 2019. Buckner pleaded guilty on October 6, 2021, to first-degree murder and is pending acceptance to the Patuxent Institution in Jessup for his incarceration.

On March 28, 2019, at approximately 5:22 p.m., Howard County Police responded to the 5400 block of Old Tucker Row outside Kahler Hall in Columbia for a reported shooting. Carolina, Jr., age 27, of Columbia, was found suffering from gunshot wounds. He was transported to Howard County General Hospital where he later died.

Through investigation, police believe Carolina interacted with three individuals in a drug-related incident shortly before the shooting.

Upon release from prison, Buckner will be placed on 5 years of supervised probation.

“While we realize this life sentence cannot bring back Ronald Carolina, Jr., we do hope it provides some measure of closure for the family regarding the death of their loved one,” said State’s Attorney Rich Gibson. “30 years is a long time for Buckner to think about the irreparable loss his thoughtless actions have caused to a family still reeling from grief.”

The remaining defendant in this case, Daniel Keantay Owens, age 27, is set to have a jury trial on August 8, 2022.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant State’s Attorneys’ Katherine Bagley, Scott Hammond, and Stephen Yaeger.

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