



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Columbia Man Receives Life Without Parole in 2020 Fatal Shooting

Howard County, MD (September 28, 2023) –Jerome Tyrell Thomas, age 31, was sentenced to life in prison without parole today for 1st-degree murder plus an additional 10 years for firearm-related charges (use of a handgun during the commission of a crime of violence & illegal possession of a firearm). In June of this year, Thomas was found guilty by a Howard County jury in the shooting death of a Baltimore man in 2020.

On May 1st, 2020, at approximately 12:15a.m., Howard County Police were called to the intersection of Governor Warfield Parkway and Twin Rivers Road for a report of a fight among several people with shots fired. Upon arrival, police located Anthony Tayvon McNeil, age 24, from Baltimore, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds in a nearby parking lot in the 10000 block of Nightmist Court. McNeil was transported to Howard County General Hospital where he later died. Police believe the shooting originated from an argument earlier in the evening between acquaintances of Thomas and McNeil.

Through investigation, detectives collected surveillance footage in the area and developed Thomas as a suspect. Thomas fled to North Carolina but was eventually taken into custody at a motel in Annapolis on May 15th, 2020.

“The loss of Anthony McNeil’s life was tragic and unnecessary. The defendant, Jerome Thomas, had a prior criminal record and did not learn from his past mistakes. Instead, he chose to commit one of the worst crimes a person can commit upon another by violently taking the life of McNeil,” said State’s Attorney Rich Gibson. “We agree with the judge’s sentence today and hope it will bring some measure of closure for the victim’s family.”

In a separate case, Thomas was also sentenced to 6 months consecutive for an assault on a correctional officer while being held in jail pending this case.

This case was prosecuted by the Chief of our General Crimes Unit (GCU), Michael A. McAllister.

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