NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY
Contact: Yolanda Vazquez
410-313-2108
yvazquez@howardcountymd.gov

For Immediate Release
January 30, 2026

Columbia Teen Convicted in Double Homicide of Two Juveniles

Ellicott City, MD - Emmetson Zeah, 19, of Columbia, Maryland, was found guilty today for his role in the February 2025 shooting deaths of two teenagers outside the Columbia Mall. Following a bench trial, Howard County Circuit Court Judge Stephanie Porter returned guilty verdicts on all but one count.

Zeah was convicted of multiple charges, including two counts of first-degree murder, first-degree assault, use of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime, retaliation against a witness, reckless endangerment, firearms-related offenses, and escape. He was acquitted of one count of obstruction of justice. The victims were 16-year-old Michael Robertson and 15-year-old Blake McCray, both of Columbia.

On February 22, 2025, at approximately 5:52 p.m., Howard County Police responded to reports of gunfire in the parking lot and bus stop area near Lidl in the 10300 block of Little Patuxent Parkway. Michael Robertson was pronounced dead at the scene. Blake McCray was transported to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

Surveillance footage, witness accounts, and court-ordered GPS monitoring along with the defendant's statement, placed Zeah at the scene at the time of the crime. A subsequent search of his Columbia residence yielded a firearm

consistent with the recovered cartridge casings, as well as clothing and other evidence linking him to the shooting.

“This was a senseless and heartbreaking act of violence that took the lives of two young people far too soon and shattered the families who loved them,” said State’s Attorney Rich Gibson. “While no verdict can undo that loss, today’s decision delivers accountability and sends a clear message that this community will not tolerate this kind of violence. Our hearts remain with the victims’ families as they continue to grieve.”

Zeah is scheduled to be sentenced on May 22, 2026.

The case was prosecuted by State’s Attorney Rich Gibson and Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Dillon Yeung.

###