



NEWS RELEASE

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Juvenile Sentenced to 30 Years in Ellicott City Fatal Shooting

Ellicott City, MD – Elijah Hale, age 15, has been sentenced in connection with the 2024 fatal shooting of 26-year-old Kendrick McLellan.

On March 26, 2026, Hale was sentenced by Howard County Circuit Court Judge Stephanie Porter to life imprisonment suspending all but 30 years of active incarceration, following his guilty plea in November 2025 to first-degree murder.

The investigation revealed that on October 9, 2024, at approximately 5:00 p.m., Hale and a co-defendant shot and killed McLellan while he was seated in his vehicle in the 5500 block of Waterloo Road in Ellicott City. After the shooting, the defendants transported the victim's body to an office building parking lot in the 8800 block of Centre Park Drive in Columbia.

On October 12, 2024, at approximately 2:14 a.m., Howard County Police officers located a suspicious vehicle in that parking lot and discovered McLellan deceased inside.

Hale was apprehended on October 16, 2024, on school property at Chesapeake High School in Anne Arundel County and taken into custody without incident.

"This is a tragedy on every level," said State's Attorney Rich Gibson. "A young man lost his life, and two juveniles now face the reality that their futures are forever changed by the choices they made. While today's sentence brings a measure of accountability, we recognize that it cannot fully heal the deep pain experienced by McLellan's family. Our hope is that this outcome provides them with some sense of consolation and peace, even as they continue to grieve the irreplaceable loss of their loved one."

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant State's Attorneys Karen Gross and Scott Hammond.

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