NEWS RELEASE

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

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Columbia Teen Sentenced to Life Without Parole Plus 70 Years for Double Homicide at The Mall in Columbia

Ellicott City, MD – Emmetson Zeah, 19, of Columbia, Maryland, was sentenced today by Howard County Circuit Court Judge Stephanie Porter to Life Without the Possibility of Parole, plus an additional 70 years in prison, for the February 2025 murders of two teenagers outside The Mall in Columbia.

Following a bench trial earlier this year, Judge Porter found Zeah guilty 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, and firearms-related offenses. 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 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, court-ordered GPS monitoring, and the defendant's own statements placed Zeah at the scene at the time of the murders. 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.

“Today’s sentence reflects the devastating consequences of a calculated act of violence that stole the lives of two young people and forever altered the lives of their families,” said Howard County State’s Attorney Rich H. Gibson, Jr. “A life without parole sentence plus 70 years ensures that Emmetson Zeah will never again have the opportunity to inflict harm on our community. While no sentence can bring Michael and Blake back, we hope this outcome provides a measure of justice and closure to the families who have endured unimaginable loss.”

The case was prosecuted by State’s Attorney Richard H. Gibson, Jr. and Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Dillon Yeung**.**

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