



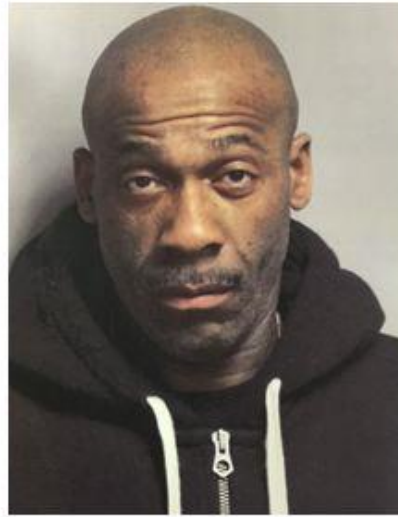
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Sentencing in Murder Case



KAREEM MURRAY



RUSSEL PALMER

ALBANY, NY - District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that KAREEM MURRAY, 33, and RUSSEL PALMER, 48, both of Albany, were sentenced to 25 years to Life in State Prison before the Honorable Judge Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court this morning, after they were found guilty at a jury trial for Murder in the Second Degree.

MURRAY and PALMER were additionally sentenced to concurrent terms of 12 ½ - 25 years in State Prison for (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Second Degree, and 15 years determinate in State Prison, to be followed by 5 years of Post-Release Supervision, for (2) Counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree. MURRAY and PALMER were also sentenced to 14 years determinate in State Prison, to be followed by 5 years of Post-Release Supervision for (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, which will be served consecutively to the other sentences.

On May 15, 2015, MURRAY AND PALMER were each found guilty after a jury trial of (1) Count of Murder in the Second Degree, a Class A-1 Felony, (1) Count of Conspiracy in the Second Degree, a Class B Felony, (2) Counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, both Class C Felonies, and (1) Count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, a Class A-II Felony, before the Honorable Judge Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court this afternoon.

On December 23, 2013, shortly before 9 am, the defendant, along with his co-defendant, Russell Palmer, opened fire on Sylvester Scott in the area of 81 Grand Street in the City and County of Albany, NY, striking him in the arm and killing him instantly. Seven shell casings were recovered at the scene. The shooting is believed to have been in retaliation for the rape and robbery of defendant Murray's girlfriend, for which Murray wrongly blamed Scott.

Two loaded firearms were subsequently recovered from Russell Palmer's 2003 GMC Yukon, which is the vehicle driven by the defendants on the morning of the murder. Ballistic tests established that one of the guns, a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol, was the murder weapon. Co-Defendant Palmer's DNA was recovered from the trigger of that gun, as well as from the ammunition in the other gun. Testimony and wiretap evidence revealed that Murray had obtained the guns from an associate.

Jurdell Gilliam, the person responsible for the sexual assault and robbery of Murray's girlfriend, was subsequently apprehended by the Albany Police, charged, and convicted before the Honorable Judge Peter A. Lynch. He was sentenced in May of 2015.

Street Crimes Bureau Chief Eric Galarneau prosecuted this case.

For more information please contact the Albany County District Attorney's Office at (518) 487-5460.

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