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SPARTANBURG MAN RECEIVES 21-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR CONVENIENCE STORE ROBBERY

A Spartanburg man received a 21-year prison sentence today after he was found guilty of robbing a local business at gunpoint.

Mykel R. Watkins, 23, was found guilty of armed robbery at the conclusion of a two-day jury trial. He will serve 85 percent of Circuit Judge Derham Cole's prison sentence before he is eligible for release.

Watkins was one of two people who robbed the Dollar Value, 488 E. Blackstock Road, on Sept. 11, 2007. Watkins and his partner were both armed with handguns when they entered the store about 10:30 p.m. and demanded money. The bandits took an undisclosed sum of money from the cashier and fled the store parking lot on foot. Deputies identified Watkins and his co-defendant, Tavarise L. Ferguson, 23, of Spartanburg, after they released the store's surveillance camera photos to the local media.

"This case is a good example of what occurs when we all work together to fight crime," Assistant Solicitor Danny Fulmer said.

An armed robbery charge is still pending on Tavarise Leon Ferguson, 23, of Spartanburg.

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