

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2023

SPARTANBURG MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON FOR DECEMBER 2020 SHOOTING

From the Office of Seventh Circuit Solicitor Barry J. Barnette

A Spartanburg man has been sentenced to twenty-five (25) years in prison for Voluntary Manslaughter as well as five (5) years in prison for Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime to run concurrently.

Jolyne Rector-Mills, 19, pleaded guilty on Friday in Spartanburg to Voluntary Manslaughter and another charge of Possession of a Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime. Circuit Court Judge Grace Gilchrist Knie issued the sentence.

The crimes occurred December 17, 2020, in Spartanburg on James H. Young Street around 2:30 in the afternoon. Jolyne Rector-Mills and another individual approached Elijah Ross and Terrell Cohen. Mr. Rector-Mills attempted to rob Mr. Ross and Mr. Cohen. As Mr. Cohen attempted to run away, he was shot by Mr. Rector-Mills. Mr. Cohen was pronounced deceased at the scene. Approximately four hundred feet down the street, members of the Spartanburg Police Department located Mr. Ross in the front seat of a vehicle. Mr. Ross had been shot multiple times. Mr. Ross was transported to Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. After speaking with witnesses and receiving a tip as to Mr. Rector-Mills' location, law enforcement officers were able to apprehend Mr. Rector-Mills in Thomasville, North Carolina five days later. The investigation is still ongoing as to any other accomplices of Mr. Rector-Mills; no charges have been made at this time.

Assistant Solicitors Eddie Hunter and Maressa Cuenca prosecuted Rector-Mills. Assistant Solicitor Hunter stated he is "incredibly thankful for the hard work of the Spartanburg Police Department and the willingness of witnesses to come forward and help solve this violent crime."

For more information, contact Amy Goulding at 864-596-2575 or agoulding@spartanburgcounty.org.

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