

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SPARTANBURG MAN SENTENCED TO A TOTAL OF 43 YEARS IN PRISON**

From the Office of Seventh Circuit Solicitor Barry J. Barnette

A Spartanburg man has been sentenced to a total of forty-three (43) years in prison for crimes committed in Spartanburg County.

Troy Dashaun Braxton, 31, pleaded guilty on Tuesday in Spartanburg to Voluntary Manslaughter, five counts of Armed Robbery, two counts of Possession of a Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime, Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature, Failure to Stop for Blue Light, and Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana. Circuit Court Judge J. Derham Cole issued the sentence.

On January 1, 2020, at the Donnette Bar and Grill on Asheville Highway in Spartanburg Mr. Braxton entered the establishment with a small bag on his chest. He proceeded to play a game before pulling a pistol and robbing the Donnette, Keith Comer, David Moore, and Crystal Risko at gunpoint. Mr. Braxton took money from the Donnette as well as cell phones and other items from Mr. Comer, Mr. Moore, and Ms. Risko. Mr. Braxton drove away from the Donnette in a blue Crown Victoria. As Mr. Braxton fled the scene, Mr. Comer fired shots at the blue Crown Victoria.

Mr. Braxton was then involved in the robbery and killing of Juan Booker at Promenade Apartments in Spartanburg on January 10, 2020. After Mr. Booker was shot, his cell phone and money were taken by Mr. Braxton and others. Video footage from nearby locations assisted the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office in determining a white Honda Accord was involved in this event.

A couple weeks later, members of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office noticed a white Honda Accord with an incorrect license plate driving on John B. White Sr. Boulevard. The license plate on the Honda Accord came back to a blue Crown Victoria. The officers also witnessed a traffic violation by the Honda Accord and activated their blue lights to make a traffic stop. Mr. Braxton was behind the wheel of the Honda Accord. He drove the Honda Accord well above the speed limit for almost five miles before stopping the vehicle and running from officers. He was apprehended. During the foot pursuit, Mr. Braxton discarded a large bookbag. In that bookbag officers discovered the small bag Mr. Braxton wore on his chest during the armed robberies at the Donnette Bar and Grill. In the Honda Accord officers also located 35 grams of marijuana.

Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office patrol officers and investigators determined the blue Crown Victoria was Mr. Braxton's vehicle. Officers located several gun shots in the vehicle. One of the bullets recovered from the Crown Victoria matched the gun Mr. Comer fired at the vehicle as Mr. Braxton fled from the Donnette Bar and Grill. Additionally, phone records

connected Mr. Braxton to the killing of Mr. Booker. Mr. Braxton gave statements to investigators admitting his involvement in the armed robberies at the Donnette on January 1, 2020, and the killing of Mr. Booker on January 10, 2020.

Further, in 2021 Mr. Braxton and other individuals attacked Jesse Redding at the Spartanburg County Detention Center. Mr. Redding received a fracture to his skull from the attack.

For crimes committed on January 10, 2020, Braxton was sentenced to twenty-five (25) years in prison for Voluntary Manslaughter, fifteen (15) years in prison for Armed Robbery, and five (5) years in prison for Possession of a Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime. The sentences for the January 10<sup>th</sup> Armed Robbery and Possession of a Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime run concurrent with the twenty-five (25) year sentence for Voluntary Manslaughter.

For crimes committed on January 1, 2020, Braxton was further sentenced to fifteen (15) years each on four counts of Armed Robbery and a five (5) year prison sentence for a second charge of Possession of a Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime. His four fifteen (15) year sentences for the January 1<sup>st</sup> Armed Robberies run concurrent to each other and the (5) year sentence for Possession of a Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime; his fifteen (15) year prison sentence consecutively follows the twenty-five (25) year prison sentence for the crimes Braxton committed on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Braxton was also sentenced to ten (10) years in prison for Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature and five (5) years in prison for Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, both to run concurrently with his other sentences. Additionally, Braxton was sentenced to three (3) years in prison for Failure to Stop for Blue Light; this three (3) year sentence will run consecutive to his other sentences.

Braxton's prior criminal history includes convictions in Florida for Common Law Robbery and Burglary. He has convictions in South Carolina for Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature and Burglary in the Third Degree.

Solicitor Barry Barnette prosecuted Braxton. Solicitor Barnette commended the great job the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office investigators and patrol officers did to bring justice to victims in the numerous crimes committed by Braxton. "The hard work done by law enforcement led to the successful prosecution of a very dangerous man."

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