

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 5, 2023

JAMAR HILLIARD – GUILTY OF VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER AND MALICIOUSLY SHOOTING INTO AN OCCUPIED DWELLING

PORTSMOUTH, VA- In the matter of Commonwealth v. Jamar Lafonz Hilliard, the jury has found the Defendant guilty of Voluntary Manslaughter and Maliciously Shooting into an Occupied Dwelling in the killing of 37-year-old Charkela Branch.

The three-day jury trial concluded on October 4, 2023.

The Commonwealth's evidence at trial showed that Hilliard and Branch, who were in domestic relationship, became involved in an altercation at Branch's home. During the altercation, both parties fired gunshots at each other resulting in Branch being fatally wounded.

Hilliard is scheduled to be sentenced on December 13, 2023 at 10:00am.

Hilliard also faces two counts of Possession of a Firearm by A Convicted Felon, for which a trial date is pending.

This matter was prosecuted by Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Lynnette Hill.

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