

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



Main Number: (757) 393-8581 · Fax: (757) 393-5135

MEDIA RELEASE

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Portsmouth, VA

Contact: CaShea Coleman
Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney/Public Information Officer
colemanc@portsmouthva.gov · (757) 393-8581

ANTHONY WORLDS SENTENCED IN FIRST-DEGREE MURDER TRIAL

After a three-day jury trial commencing on April 25, 2022, the Defendant, Anthony Worlds, was found guilty of 1st Degree Murder and Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony in the 2018 murder of Elbert Brown Jr.

On 10/21/2018 just after midnight, the police dispatch received a 911 call stating there was a gunshot victim at 216 Wilson Drive, in the City of Portsmouth. When police arrived, they located Elbert Brown Jr. inside 216 Wilson Drive, lying on the floor with single gunshot wound to the upper chest. Several witnesses on scene gave a description of the Defendant and stated the Defendant had been at the apartment earlier in the evening, drinking. The Defendant became agitated and was made to leave the apartment. The Defendant came back to the apartment a few minutes later, banging on the door saying, "where is my shit." When Elbert Brown Jr. opened the door, the Defendant had a gun. The Defendant then entered the apartment, pointed the gun at the Elbert Brown Jr. and shot him once in the chest.

Based on legislative changes, post July 1, 2021, defendants have a right to select a jury sentencing or to be sentenced by the judge of the circuit court, who presided over the jury trial. In this instance, the Defendant opted to be sentenced by the judge of the circuit court, who presided over the jury trial, Judge Brenda C. Spry.

On June 30, 2022, after arguments of counsel, the Defendant was sentenced to forty (40) years on the charge of 1st Degree Murder with ten (10) years suspended, followed by five (5) years of supervised probation and three (3) years on the Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony. The total period of active incarceration, imposed by the Court, in a Virginia Correctional Facility is thirty-three (33) years for the crimes committed in the city of Portsmouth. The Commonwealth argued against any departure from the sentencing guidelines. The sentencing guidelines suggested a range of forty-one (41) years to sixty-eight (68) years in a Virginia Correctional Facility. In the Commonwealth of Virginia, sentencing guidelines are discretionary.

The trial team consisted of Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Christopher T. Warman and Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Lynnette O. Hill.

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Stephanie N. Morales, Commonwealth's Attorney
Portsmouth Judicial Center · 1345 Court Street, Suite 105
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704