

# State of South Carolina Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Solicitor  
**W. Walter Wilkins**

## **PRESS RELEASE** **For Immediate Release**

**August 15, 2013**

### **Brothers Plead Guilty to Attempted Murder, Armed Robbery and Carjacking**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that James Daniel Mayberry, 19, and Mickey Lane Mayberry, 21, each pled guilty on August 15, 2013, to attempted murder, armed robbery, three counts of carjacking and two counts of attempted armed robbery. The Honorable Brian Gibbons sentenced Mickey Mayberry to thirty-five (35) years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections and sentenced his brother, James Mayberry, to thirty (30) years.

Evidence presented at the hearing by Assistant Solicitor Allen Fretwell established that the two brothers assaulted and robbed their father, Mickey Lee Mayberry, of his vehicle and then drove to Greenville where they attempted to steal several vehicles at gunpoint. The first victim, Adam Dunavant, had just returned home from a church basketball game when he observed a white Volvo on the side of the road near his driveway on Old Easley Bridge Highway in Greenville County. As Dunavant slowed to turn into his driveway, the Volvo pulled quickly into the road—blocking his lane. Dunavant came to a stop and saw two teen-aged males get out of the Volvo and approach his vehicle. Dunavant could hear one of the males yelling at him, but he could not understand what he was saying. The driver of the Volvo then raised his arm and pointed a small, black, semi-automatic handgun in Dunavant's direction. Once he saw the gun, Dunavant immediately feared for his safety and accelerated. As he drove past the driver, Dunavant heard a loud "pop" and knew that the gun

had been fired. As Dunavant reached his house, he noticed a bullet-hole in the window just behind the driver's side door. Forensic officers would later recover a bullet from the top of the driver's seat just below the headrest.

The brothers, still armed, next approached victim Judith Sims in her Honda sedan and attempted to force her out of her vehicle. They began beating on her window, demanding that she get out of the car. Fortunately for Sims, all of her doors were locked, and she was able to quickly drive away. Sims later called 911 to report the incident.

After the confrontation with Sims, the brothers approached a 2011 Jeep Wrangler occupied by victims Bryan and Sharon Moore, their 6-year old son and the son's friend, an un-related child of 5-years old. James Mayberry pointed a gun at Mr. Moore's head and said, "Get out of the car or I will kill you." The Moores got out of the vehicle, and were in the process of getting the children out of the vehicle when James Mayberry began pulling Mr. Moore from behind saying, "Hurry up! Come on!" Mr. Moore believed the males would kill him, his wife and the children, but they were able to finally get the children out of the vehicle. The brothers then entered the vehicle and sped off.

Around 1:30 am the following morning, Easley Police located the abandoned Jeep Wrangler—with the DVD player removed, and later that morning, Pickens County deputies located the suspects on foot in Pickens County. James Mayberry was found in possession of the key to the Jeep Wrangler, and he led police to a campsite in the woods where two backpacks were located. One of these backpacks contained a handgun of the same caliber as a spent casing collected from the scene of the shooting. The school resource officer at the defendants' high school in Anderson told investigators that James Mayberry idolized the Columbine High School shooting suspects, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

Since all of the charges carry a maximum sentence of twenty years or more, neither Mayberry will be eligible for parole and will be required to serve at least eighty-five (85) percent of their sentence according to Wilkins.