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Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE
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Cross Tracks Gang Sentenced in Series of Violent Home Invasions

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that near the end of a two day trial, LORENZO AZIA JACKSON, age 25, pled guilty to Armed Robbery and Attempted Murder for the role he played in a September 3, 2014 home invasion. JACKSON was the last of ten defendants charged in the case to admit his guilt. JACKSON was sentenced by the Honorable D. Garrison Hill to a term of 18 years incarceration at the South Carolina Department of Corrections. JACKSON will serve at least 85% of that sentence before he becomes eligible for parole. JACKSON admitted to planning the September 3 robbery with a group of teens who refer to themselves as members of the Cross Tracks street gang. Members of the gang admitted their guilt in not only the September 3 robbery but admitted to attempting to enter a home on Evelyn Drive on August 26, 2014 that culminated in an exchange of gunfire between the defendants and the resident of that home. Just days later, on September 2, 2014 the same defendants forcibly entered a different home on Evelyn Drive and violently assaulted the four residents before taking purses, cash and the victims' two cars.

As part of their agreement to testify against JACKSON, the co-defendants were sentenced today. JAKOBE GERMAN, age 17, pled guilty to two counts of Burglary 1st Degree and two counts of Armed Robbery and was sentenced to a term of 17 years incarceration. MIKE SMALLS, age 21, pled guilty to Armed Robbery, two counts of Burglary 1st Degree, Attempted Murder and three counts of Conspiracy and was sentenced to 20 years incarceration. DEMETRIUS SMALLS, age 24, pled guilty to Attempted Armed Robbery and Conspiracy and was sentenced to a term of 10 years suspended to the service of 5

years incarceration and will be required to be supervised on probation for 18 months after his release. QUANCEY HARPER, age 19, pled guilty to two counts of Armed Robbery, Attempted Murder and three counts of Conspiracy and was sentenced to 20 years incarceration. ZYKEIA HARPER, age 18, pled guilty to two counts of Armed Robbery, Attempted Murder and three counts of Conspiracy and was sentenced to 30 years suspended to the service of 14 years incarceration and will be monitored for 3 years by probation upon her release. DAMON YOUNG-GAINES, age 21, pled guilty to Armed Robbery and Conspiracy and was sentenced to a 10 year term. JOSEPH COLON MALDONADO, age 19, pled guilty to Strong Arm Robbery and Conspiracy and was sentenced to an indeterminate Youthful Offender sentence. The remaining juvenile co-defendant is serving an indeterminate commitment at the Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office conducted an extensive investigation of each of the crimes and was able to apprehend many of the defendants on September 4, the day after the September 3 attack. Several defendants were located in a home on Carly Drive, and during a search of the house, police located several guns used in the robberies as well as items belonging to the victims. Investigator Matt Owens of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office testified at JACKSON'S trial about the manner by which police were able to quickly identify and apprehend all ten defendants involved in the crime.

Evidence presented during trial demonstrated that the group of defendants first met at a convenience store on E. Parker Road around 8pm before traveling to the victims' home on E. Parker Rd. The group approached the house with faces covered and guns drawn before demanding money from the victims. The crew apparently believed that a safe containing a large amount of money might be inside the house, but the victims testified at trial that no cash was inside the home. The attackers managed to get only \$20 before shooting one victim several times and striking two others with their guns before fleeing on foot.