

State of South Carolina  
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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

**August 23, 2016**

**Man Sentenced to 12 Years for Armed Robbery at Gas Station**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that Michall Justun Gray, 28, pled guilty on August 22, 2016, for the crimes of Armed Robbery and Possessing a Weapon During a Violent Crime. The Honorable Perry H. Gravely sentenced Gray to twelve years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Evidence presented at the hearing by Assistant Solicitor Nicole M. Simpson established on May 16, 2015, that Gray entered the Power Trac gas station on Bessie Road in Greenville County, wearing a ski mask and armed with a bat and a long-blade knife. Once inside, Gray jumped over the counter and ordered the victim to open the register. Gray grabbed approximately \$700 in currency and fled the store. Through the course of investigation, law enforcement learned that the getaway vehicle was parked at a closed business during the robbery. Authorities located the suspect vehicle, driven by co-defendant James Copelan, who admitted he was with Gray and that Gray had robbed the store.

Upon arrest, Gray confessed to committing the robbery and told police the robbery was Copelan's idea. According to Gray, Copelan selected the store and provided Gray with gloves and a mask. Copelan was captured on store surveillance going into the store, shortly before the robbery, and, according to Gray, told him to commit the robbery immediately. Gray informed police that Copelan was supposed to dispose of the mask and gloves by burning them. He also told police that Copelan would claim to have a brain injury and that Copelan is smarter than people think.

According to Wilkins, Gray will serve at least eighty-five percent of his sentence and co-defendant James Copelan's charges are awaiting trial.