

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Greenville Man Sentenced for Two Armed Robberies and Weapons Crime

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that Preston Emmanuel Hancock, age 27, was convicted by a Greenville County jury of two counts of Armed Robbery with a Deadly Weapon and Possession of a Pistol by a Person Convicted of a Crime of Violence. Hancock was sentenced to 33 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable Perry H. Gravely.

Evidence presented at the trial by Assistant Solicitor Brian J. Moroney established that on November 16, 2018, Hancock along with co-defendant Derrick Davis conspired together and arrived at the BB&T (now Truist Bank) located at 104 Hampton Avenue in the City of Greenville. The defendants presented a note saying, "\$20,000 in the bag or I will kill you" and stole \$1130 cash after holding two bank tellers at gunpoint.

On November 19, 2018, Hancock and Davis arrived at the Bank of Travelers Rest located at 2021 North Pleasantburg Drive in the City of Greenville. The defendants presented a note saying, "Big bills be easy or be shot" and stole \$3510 in cash after holding the bank tellers at gunpoint. \$500 of pre-recorded "bait money" was included with the cash stolen from the Bank of Travelers Rest.

After receiving a positive fingerprint match, detectives were able to obtain arrest warrants for Hancock and learned that the defendants were staying at the Carolina Inn motel in Anderson County. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), with the assistance of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office located and apprehended both defendants after a vehicle pursuit and subsequent foot pursuit.

The defendants were each in possession of significant quantities of cash. Of the \$500 worth of pre-recorded bait money that was included in the cash stolen from the Bank of Travelers Rest, \$480 was found in Hancock's possession and \$20 was found in Davis' possession. After a search of Hancock and Davis' motel room at the Carolina Inn, the 9mm handgun and disguise used in both bank robberies was located.

The investigation of both armed robberies was conducted by Detectives Brad Lusk and Russ Irvin with the City of Greenville Police Department.