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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

April 2, 2019

Greenville Man Sentenced on Voluntary Manslaughter and Weapons Charges in 2015 Shooting Death

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that KUNTA KINTE KIRKSEY, age 42, pled guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter, Possession of a Weapon during Commission of a Violent Crime and Possession of a Weapon by Person Convicted of a Crime of Violence on April 2, 2019. Kirksey was sentenced to 30 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections on the Voluntary Manslaughter charge, and an additional 5 years consecutive on the Possession of Weapon during Commission of a Violent Crime and Possession of a Weapon by a Person Convicted of a Crime of Violence.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Christy Kednocker Sustakovitch established that on March 8, 2015, KUNTA KINTE KIRKSEY shot 24-year old Alex Paden at the West Greenville Community Center in Greenville County. Assistant Solicitor Sustakovitch stated the shooting happened around 7:30 pm after a heated verbal altercation between Kirksey and Paden over a missing cell phone. Paden was shot multiple times by Kirksey as he walked toward his car. Evidence presented at the plea showed the victim was almost 40 feet away from his car when Kirksey began firing and was unarmed at the time. Several juvenile witnesses were playing basketball nearby and saw the shooting happen. They were unable to identify the shooter or the victim but saw a man dressed in all black begin shooting the victim who fell. While on the ground, the juveniles said the victim was shot in the head. Several witnesses also provided statements that Kirksey shot Paden after the altercation that night.