

State of South Carolina Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

September 16, 2013

Teen Pleads Guilty to Charges Including Attempted Murder and Attempted Armed Robbery

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that Michael McClean Lee, 18, pled guilty on September 12, 2013, to attempted murder, two counts of attempted armed robbery, burglary in the second degree, two counts of possessing a weapon during a violent crime and two counts of conspiracy from three different incidents. The Honorable Letitia Verdin sentenced Lee to sixteen (16) years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Evidence presented at the hearing by Assistant Solicitor Allen Fretwell established that Lee and two co-defendants, Antonio Curenton and Robbie McCall (each of whom has already pled guilty), drove to a residence at 64 Long Forest Drive on June 5, 2012, at approximately 1:00 am. Lee had been communicating with Curenton about “hitting a lick” or committing a robbery. At the residence, Lee and McCall (both armed), confronted a female and demanded access to a shed in the back where they believed guns were stored. The female was locked out of the residence, so Lee kicked in the back door and they searched the residence for guns and keys to the shed. After removing several guns from inside the residence, Lee and McCall climbed up on the roof of the shed and broke a window to gain entry and steal several more guns. After the defendants left, the female contacted 911. Deputies in the area spotted the defendants’ vehicle and followed them to a Waffle House where all were eventually arrested and the weapons recovered.

Regarding the second incident, on February 10, 2013, Assistant Solicitor Fretwell told the Court that Lee and co-defendant Javon “Juvy” Mack met with Sammy Sullivan on Hall Street.

Sullivan believed he was there to sell a quantity of crack cocaine (cocaine base) to Mack, but Lee took out a pistol and shot Sullivan once they got into Sullivan's car to complete the transaction. Sullivan's girlfriend, Keturah Whiteside, was driving the vehicle and her infant child was in the backseat when the shooting took place. Police located more than five grams of crack in the vehicle after all of the occupants had fled. Lee later told police that he shot Sullivan because Sullivan had mentioned to a third party that Lee was in possession of a stolen gun that belonged to the third party.

Six days later, in the third incident, Lee, Mack, and co-defendants Ali Alatif and Marquise Blassingame, entered the ATL Fashions store on Poinsett Highway. Lee & Alatif pulled out guns and demanded money from the proprietors. When one of the store employees returned from a quick errand and disrupted the robbery, the four defendants ran out of the store without obtaining any goods or valuables.

Since several of the charges carry a maximum sentence of twenty years or more, Lee will not be eligible for parole and will be required to serve at least eighty-five (85) percent of his sentence according to Wilkins. Wilkins further indicated that the charges against Mack, Alatif and Blassingame are still pending.