

State of South Carolina

Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit



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PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

February 5, 2019

Greenville Man Sentenced to 15 Years for Armed Robberies

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that Calvin Dejuan Benson, 27, pled guilty immediately prior to trial on February 4, 2019, to charges of Armed Robbery, Attempted Armed Robbery, and Possessing a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime. The Honorable Edward W. Miller sentenced Benson to fifteen (15) years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Evidence presented at the hearing by Assistant Solicitor Allen Fretwell established that the first incident occurred on January 27, 2014, when Benson entered Tony's Pizza on South Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville County, pointed a small, black gun at an employee and demanded money from the cash register. Although Benson was wearing a mask during the crime, the employee was able to provide a partial physical description. The second incident occurred on January 31, 2014, when Benson entered "Wings on the Run" on East North Street in Greenville County. Benson was again wearing a mask when he cocked a black, semi-automatic handgun and placed it in a female employee's face, demanding "everything" the employees had. Another employee fled the front area, retrieved a handgun from the kitchen, and discharged the weapon through a serving window in Benson's direction. Benson was struck by the employee's gunfire but was able to flee the store. Later that evening Benson appeared at Spartanburg Regional Hospital suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, and hospital personnel contacted law enforcement. Benson later admitted to Greenville County Sheriff's Office investigators his involvement in both crimes. Solicitor Wilkins stated, "This guilty plea sends a message that violent crime has severe consequences and that members of our community will defend themselves when confronted with violence. We hope this sentence gives some justice to the victims of these armed robberies."