

State of South Carolina Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

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Man Pleads Guilty in Home Invasion, Armed Robbery and Death of East Gantt Man

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that Michael McClean Lee, 20, pled guilty on July 20, 2016, to Voluntary Manslaughter, Armed Robbery, Possessing a Weapon During a Violent Crime and Criminal Conspiracy in the death of Darilus “DJ” Williams in January 2013. The Honorable Edward W. Miller sentenced Lee to twenty (20) years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Evidence presented at the hearing by Assistant Solicitor Allen Fretwell established that Lee and co-defendant Marquis Blassingame went to Williams’ residence at 303 Springbrook Drive in Greenville County. Lee acknowledged that he and Blassingame entered the residence and shot the victim repeatedly when his back was turned. According to Fretwell, Williams was likely also shot with his own gun which had been removed from the residence by the time police arrived. Lee and Blassingame took several items, including a cooler later identified by a witness, and fled the residence.

Fretwell told Judge Miller that the case broke once known associate Ali Alatif directed police to an individual named Joshua Rosemond. Fretwell said Rosemond told police he drove Lee and Blassingame to the victim’s residence in the early morning hours of January 8, 2013, and had observed a gun in the possession of the two men. Once Rosemond dropped them off, he remained in the vehicle with an unidentified person who threatened harm if Rosemond left. Within moments, Rosemond heard the sound of gunfire coming from the victim’s residence. Lee and Blassingame later returned to the vehicle with what Rosemond described as a “red cooler” and threatened Rosemond to keep silent about what he had seen and heard. The following morning, a relative of Williams discovered his body and told police she had observed

Lee at the victim's house the previous evening. Lee would later tell police he had last seen the victim at the victim's residence "the day he died" when he was there with Blassingame.

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