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PRESS RELEASE
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Taylors 2011 Double Homicide Defendants Brought to Justice

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins office stated on Thursday July 16, a Greenville County Jury found that James Michael Johnson, age 26, was a particiapant in a robbery and murder that left two victims dead. The Honorable J. Derham Cole sentenced Johnson to 30 years. Johnson is not eligible for parole.

Evidence presented at the trial by prosecutors Lucas Marchant and Katryna Salisbury established that on Sunday April 3, 2011, James Michael Johnson, Scott Corey Lowe and Manuel Nicolas Granados all conspired to rob the victim Chris Porcoro of drugs and money. Granados was the inside man who frequented Porcoro's residence to use drugs. Granados role was to make sure the victims were asleep or passed out and to ensure that the door was unlocked so that Johnson and Lowe could enter and rob Porcoro. Johnson and Lowe entered the residence that morning expecting the victims to be out of the way, but much to Lowe's surprise Porcoro was awake and began reaching for what Lowe presumed was a gun, so Lowe shot and killed Porcoro. During this time Johnson was struggling with the second victim Amber Daniel. Johnson eventually struck her with a computer monitor which is believed to have fractured her skull. Lowe then ensured that Daniel would not be a witness and shot her as well. The 3 then took money and drugs from the residence and set the place on fire in an attempt to cover up the evidence.

At the call of the case on Monday July 13, 2015 Granados pled guilty to 2 counts of Voluntary Manslaughter for his role in the Murders. On Friday July 17, 2015, Judge J. Derham Cole sentenced him to 18 years. Granados did not testify at the trial of Johnson. Lowe pled guilty in March of 2014 to 2 counts of Voluntary Manslaughter and was sentenced to 20 years. Lowe has cooperated with the prosecution of the case to bring the other participants to justice.

Assistant Solicitor Salisbury stated "it was quite an unusual case and took a number of twists and turns throughout, but today the defendants have been brought to justice."

The case fell under the jurisdiction of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office and was investigated by both Investigator Antonio Bailey of the Homicide Unit and Investigator Charlie Brown of the Cold Case Unit. The case went unsolved for 2 years until Investigator Brown caught a break and found that Granados had been charged and convicted for possession of a .38 Caliber revolver in Buncombe County NC. The .38 Granados was caught with, was in fact the murder weapon.