



Office of Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton
PRESS RELEASE

March 21, 2014

Contact: John Potbury, Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
(810)257-3215

JURY CONVICTS 24-YEAR-OLD FLINT MAN IN 2011 HOMICIDE

FLINT -- Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said a jury has returned a guilty verdict in the 2011 murder of 27-year-old Sunta Newman of Flint.

Antonio Demond Watkins, 24 (d.o.b. 9-05-1989), has been found guilty of four felony counts including Second Degree Murder, Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Felony Firearm related to the shooting death of Newman on August 30, 2011 outside a North Saginaw St. gas station.

According to testimony at the trial, Newman and Watkins knew each other and got into an argument outside the gas station over an Xbox video game console which Newman had previously sold to Watkins.

A witness, who was with Newman at the time of the incident, testified that as Newman started back toward his car, Watkins pulled out a gun and the witness ducked out of the way and then he heard four gunshots. When the gunfire ended, the witness said Watkins was gone and Newman lay dying in the parking lot from a gunshot wound to the head. Watkins was taken to Hurley Medical Center where he was pronounced dead a couple of hours later.

"Once again, senseless violence has gunned down a young man in our community and another is on his way to prison for a very long time," said Prosecutor David Leyton. "It is a real tragedy and there are certainly no winners but, I am pleased justice has been served by the jury's verdict."

"I want to thank and congratulate Assistant Prosecutor Rebecca Jurva-Brinn who worked very hard on this case," Leyton said.

A sentencing date has been scheduled for April 15, 2014.

###