



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

David Leyton, Prosecutor



Jury Convicts Shawn Gardner of Murder in the 2009 Shooting Death of Lennon Johnson, Jr.

March 31, 2011

FLINT - Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said that a jury has found a Flint man guilty in the 2009 shooting death of 20-year-old Lennon Johnson, Jr.

Shawn Deontaye Gardner, 24 (d.o.b. 3/25/87), was found guilty of second degree murder, felony firearm, and being a felon in possession of a firearm for fatally shooting Johnson on August 16, 2009.

According to testimony in Gardner's trial, he and another man, Ricco Holmes, who previously plead guilty on March 15th to second degree murder related to Johnson's murder, followed Johnson out of a club on Clio Rd. in the early morning hours of August 16th.

Gardner and Holmes continued to follow Johnson in their car and after about five minutes, it turned into a chase through the streets of Flint. As they chased Johnson, Gardner began firing shots from an assault rifle at Johnson's car. As the chase continued, Johnson was shot in the head and was then hit by oncoming traffic as his vehicle entered the intersection of Pierson and Kermit roads.

"Given a reluctance by witnesses to come forward and testify, this was not an easy case for us to prove so I am very grateful for today's verdict," said Prosecutor Leyton.

"Fortunately, the officers and detectives in the City of Flint Police Department did an outstanding job in their investigation. Their tireless efforts and hard work and assistance during the prosecution of the case saw justice through," he said.

Both Gardner and Holmes face up to life in prison when they are sentenced on April 28th.

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