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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On August 2, 2019, after a four-day trial, a Troup County jury found Malcolm Jamal Holloway, 29, of LaGrange, guilty of Felony Murder, Criminal Attempt to Commit Armed Robbery, Conspiracy to Commit Armed Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and four counts of Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Felony. Coweta Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge Dustin Hightower sentenced Holloway to life with the possibility of parole plus 20 years in prison.

Detective John Slonaker of the LaGrange Police Department was the lead investigator on the case. The LaGrange Police Department deserves special recognition for the investigation of this case. They followed the evidence to Mississippi and back to LaGrange in order to prove what happened beyond a reasonable doubt. Assistant District Attorney Jack Winne prosecuted the case and has again proven his skill as a trial attorney. In this case and others, he has shown his ability to organize a considerable amount of detail and convey it to the jury.

The evidence at trial showed that, on June 27, 2018, Holloway recruited five other perpetrators, Antony Rashad O'Neal, Anthony Morris Jr., Sellus Culvin, Christopher Jamar Jacobs, and Javontay Carr, from Mississippi to LaGrange to participate in an armed robbery of certain local business owners. Holloway and the others plotted to ambush the victims on their drive home from work.

At 11:51 pm, the victims called 911 to report they were just shot at multiple times on Steeplechase Drive while driving home. As the victims drove up Steeplechase, they saw a dark sedan, with the headlights off and hazard lights flashing, and a male kneeling down at the front of the car, appearing at first to be experiencing car trouble. The victims then noticed other armed men in the woodline, at which time they sped past the ruse and two perpetrators opened fire. The perpetrators shot the victims' vehicle seven times, but miraculously the victims did not sustain any gunshot wounds. As Javontay Carr shot at the victims, he ran into the gunfire of a co-conspirator, and he lost his life as a result.

During trial, the evidence proved that Holloway was the mastermind of the armed robbery plot. Although Holloway was not on scene during the murder, he showed the other perpetrators where the victims lived, he watched the victims as they closed their business, he followed the victims home, and he communicated with his co-conspirators as they laid in wait at the ambush location. Because Carr's death was a direct result of the conspiracy to commit armed robbery and the attempted armed robbery planned by Holloway, Holloway was criminally responsible for Carr's homicide.

O'Neal, Morris, Jacobs, and Culvin pleaded guilty prior to trial. Pursuant to negotiated plea agreements and in light of their respective degrees of cooperation and culpability, these codefendants were sentenced to 40 years to serve 20 years, 40 to serve 20, 40 to serve 21, and 40 to serve 12, respectively.

This case is another example of the commitment of the Coweta Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office and local law enforcement to hold accountable those who would commit violent acts and victimize innocent, law-abiding members of this community. This office will continue to pursue justice for victims and to remove from our community those who tarnish it with violence.

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