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Coweta Judicial Circuit

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July 30, 2019

Press Release
For Immediate Release

RE: AMMAD HOUSTON PLEADS GUILTY TO GANG CHARGES INVOLVING AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, AGGRAVATED BATTERY, AND POSSESSION OF A FIREARM DURING THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME

On July 30, 2019 Ammad Minuel Houston was sentenced to 40 years, with 20 of those years to be served in prison, by Coweta Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge Emory Palmer for a gang motivated shooting in Newnan, Ga that severely injured a man on June 20, 2018. Houston pled guilty Coweta County Superior Court Case No. 2018-R-691 to all charges- two counts of violating Georgia's Street Gang Terrorism Prevention Act, Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Battery, and Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime. The non-negotiated guilty plea was entered the week before Houston was to proceed to trial.

Houston, a member of the MOB PIRU criminal street gang, pulled a gun on the victim, who Houston regarded as an associate of the Crip criminal street gang, and shot the victim in the stomach following a verbal altercation in the front yard of an apartment complex. The victim was unarmed, had to undergo surgery, and suffered serious complications with his intestines. Witnesses and the victim told law enforcement and were prepared to testify at trial that the victim, who is approximately the same height and weight as Houston, stood in the yard with Houston, anticipating a fair physical altercation. However, before the Defendant and victim got within several feet of one another, Houston pulled a gun and shot the victim in the presence of women and children. Before Houston pulled the trigger, he called the victim a "Crab" which is a derogatory term that rival gang members use to refer to associates of the Crip criminal street gang.

In Houston's mirandized interview with law enforcement, he admitted to being a member of the MOB PIRU criminal street gang and to believing that the victim was an associate of the Crip criminal street gang. Houston also indicated to law enforcement that he had in mind his reputation within his gang when he shot the victim. The District Attorneys Office was prepared to call as a witness a qualified expert in gang culture to testify that gang members commit violent acts against rival gang members in order to establish the dominance of their gang within an area and in order to increase their own rank within their gang.

District Attorney Herb Cranford believes gang motivated violence and crime continues to be a problem in the Coweta Judicial Circuit as well as the State of Georgia. While District Attorney Cranford believes the long term solution to the State's gang crisis is the education of at risk youth and early intervention with that same youth, the Coweta Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office will seek to remove from the community those gang members who prey on their communities by committing violent acts, distributing drugs and guns, and recruiting vulnerable youth into criminal street gangs. The successful prosecution of Ammad Houston is a testament to the focus of this District Attorney's Office in protecting the law abiding members of the community from the street gangs that would prey upon them.

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