

OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY JUDICIAL CENTER

AMY ASHWORTH COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY JUDICIAL CENTER 9311 Lee Avenue, Suite 200 MANASSAS, VIRGINIA 20110

Phone: (703)792-6050 Email: CWOffice@pwcgov.org

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 21, 2023, 12pm

Prince William County, VA

Prince William County Commonwealth's Attorney Amy Ashworth announces the successful prosecution of Roberta Edlina Brandon, 29, for charges related to the first-degree murder of Cordrey Jackson which occurred in Manassas, VA on November 29, 2016. A jury convicted Ms. Brandon in July 2022 after the case was initially resolved by guilty plea on September 30, 2019. The Court allowed Ms. Brandon to withdraw that guilty plea on July 1, 2021, and the case was subsequently set for jury trial. After a four-day trial at the end of July 2022, a jury returned unanimous guilty verdicts on the two charges. On February 17, 2023, Ms. Brandon was sentenced by a Judge to sixty (60) years in prison with thirty-three (33) of those years suspended on the First Degree Murder charge and three (3) years to serve on the Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony charge. She was also sentenced to indefinite probation upon her release after serving the sentence.

The case involved a custody and visitation dispute that turned violent in the parking lot of a Food Lion in Prince William County on November 29, 2016. During the confrontation, Mr. Cordrey Jackson was beaten and subsequently shot in the chest by the defendant, Ms. Roberta Brandon. An autopsy confirmed that the cause of death was a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Ms. Ashworth offered the following comment about this case:

"This is a case that my administration inherited when I assumed office on January 1, 2020 and am happy that we were able to resolve the matter and bring some closure for the family of Mr. Jackson. Our office remains committed to the prosecution of violent crime. We are pleased with the result in this case and hope it will send a message that we will continue to vigorously to hold people accountable for their actions and to keep our community safe."

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Amy Ashworth is the elected Commonwealth's Attorney for Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. She was elected in November 2019. The Commonwealth Attorney's Office can be reached from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. every day by phone at 703-792-6050 or email at cwoffice@pwcgov.org.

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