

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Telephone: 864-467-8647
Telefax: 864-467-8610



Greenville County Courthouse
305 E. North Street, Suite 325
Greenville, SC 29601-2185

Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Man Pleads Guilty in Multiple Robberies and Death of Greenville Woman

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that Guy Robert Mitchell, III, 19, pled guilty on February 1, 2017, to strong arm robbery and two counts of armed robbery. Mitchell also pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the death of Tiffany Ford in December 2014. The Honorable Letitia Hamilton Verdin sentenced Mitchell to thirty years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Evidence presented at the hearing by Assistant Solicitor Allen Fretwell established that shortly after 11:00 am on July 18, 2014, a man was walking home from the Quik Trip gas station on Augusta Road in Greenville County, having just purchased food items and withdrawn twenty dollars from the ATM at that location, when he heard Mitchell yelling at him. According to Fretwell, the man turned around to see Mitchell, who was seated in the passenger seat of a vehicle, instructing him to put his merchandise on the roadway. When the man failed to comply, Mitchell got out of the vehicle, walked around to the trunk and retrieved a long, brown gun that he pointed at the victim and repeated his demands. When the victim complied, Mitchell ordered him to place his wallet, cellphone and other items on the ground as well. The victim again complied, and Mitchell ordered him into the woods and instructed him to remain there until he left the scene. The victim informed police he had seen Mitchell in the Quik Trip parking lot earlier and picked Mitchell out of a six-photo lineup. Mitchell was also captured on QT video surveillance.

Fretwell also informed the Court that the following day, at approximately 3:00 pm, a woman returned to her car in the parking lot of First Cash Pawn on South Pleasantburg Drive to retrieve items from her purse she had left in her vehicle. As she approached her vehicle, she noticed her windows had been rolled down and observed a vehicle (particularly close to her vehicle) with Mitchell sitting in the driver's seat. As the woman looked in this vehicle, she observed her purse and overnight bag on Mitchell's lap. She reached through Mitchell's open window and grabbed her purse, at which time Mitchell began to pull his vehicle out of the parking space, dragging the victim several feet before she was able to break free. While Mitchell was backing up, he said to another male in the vehicle, "Hand me my pistol. I'm gonna shoot this bitch." The victim let go at that point. The victim identified Mitchell from photos obtained by law enforcement from social media.

According to Fretwell, at approximately 2:00 pm on July 23, 2014, Mitchell and others robbed Steve Haynes on McDowell Street in Greenville County by using a long, brown or black gun and demanding money. Haynes turned over a pack of cigars he had just purchased. One of the assailants, believed to be Mitchell, was wearing a red mask and struck Haynes in the face with the butt of his rifle after being instructed to do so by the driver of the vehicle. The masked assailant then fired off a round in the air as they left the scene. Based on a crimestopper's tip, the vehicle used in these robberies was traced Mitchell's mother, and a search warrant was executed at the residence where long guns matching the description provided by the victims were located in Mitchell's bedroom closet.

Finally, in the early morning hours of December 7, 2014, Mitchell shot and killed Tiffany Ford inside a residence at 49 Echols Drive in Greenville County. Prior to the incident, Mitchell had been pointing a gun at Ford and "dry-firing" in her direction. Ford repeatedly asked Mitchell not to point the gun in her direction. At some point, a witness observed what appeared to be a "clip", bullet cylinder or possibly a bullet fall to the floor. According to the witness, Mitchell picked up the object and put it in the revolver. Shortly thereafter, according to Fretwell, Mitchell fired the fatal shot into the victim's neck.