

State of South Carolina Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

March 10, 2021

Easley Woman Sentenced on Murder and Two Counts of Attempted Murder

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that CORINA VERONICA CASTRO, age 23, pled guilty on March 10, 2021 to Murder and two counts of Attempted Murder. CASTRO was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Letitia Verdin to Forty-Three (43) years for the murder charge and Thirty (30) years each for the attempted murder charges, with sentences to run concurrently in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Marcus Smith established that on March 13, 2019, CASTRO and co-defendant Adam Thomas Byrum arranged to meet Byrum's co-worker, Jacori Ashley, age 21 and Ashley's passenger, Kalo McCullough, age 27 at the Dollar General off Locust Hill Road in Travelers Rest for the purpose of Byrum obtaining a ride. When victims Ashley and McCullough arrived, CASTRO and Byrum, both armed with .380 caliber firearms, walked up to the car and, after an exchange, Byrum shot into the vehicle numerous times. Ashley sustained several gunshot wounds to the face and shoulder. McCullough sustained gunshot wounds to the chest, one of which caused a traumatic spinal injury resulting in permanent paralysis from the chest down. Both victims were able to identify CASTRO and Byrum as their assailants.

On March 17, 2019, Greenville County Sheriff's Office responded to 6077 Locust Hill Road in Travelers Rest and found a deceased white male, later identified as Jamie Dale Smith, age 32, slumped over the center console of a Ford F-150 which was partially in the roadway and partially in the entrance driveway of a business. Victim Jamie Smith had been shot twice in the head and two .380 caliber shell

casings were also found inside the vehicle. After a review of electronic surveillance, investigators with Greenville County Sheriff's Office determined that Smith met CASTRO and Byrum near the location where his body was located.

On March 18, 2019, an attempt to locate and arrest the defendants was carried out at their residence, which was a short distance from the sites of both incidents. Two .380 firearms were located in the residence where CASTRO and Byrum had been living. Both investigations were led by Investigator Jonathan Howard with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, who was able to identify and apprehend CASTRO and Byrum within just days of both incidents occurring.

Co-Defendant Byrum previously pled guilty to Murder and two counts of Attempted Murder. CASTRO was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Letitia Verdin to Fifty (50) years for the murder charge and Thirty (30) years each for the attempted murder charges, with sentences to run concurrently in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.