

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 22, 2024

JAMAR HILLIARD SENTENCED TO ACTIVELY SERVE 14 YEARS FOR VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER CONVICTION AND OTHER RELATED CHARGES

PORTSMOUTH, VA- On March 22, 2024, Jamar Lafonz Hilliard was sentenced to serve an active period of incarceration of 14 years for the killing of 37-year-old Charkela Branch on July 25, 2022, followed by 12 years of supervised probation.

At the conclusion of the three-day trial on October 4, 2023, the jury found Hilliard guilty of Voluntary Manslaughter and Maliciously Shooting into an Occupied Dwelling. In a separate trial, he was found guilty of Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

Hilliard was sentenced to serve the maximum sentence of 10 years for the Voluntary Manslaughter charge, followed by 5 years of supervised probation upon release. For the charge of Maliciously Shooting into an Occupied Dwelling, he was sentenced to 10 years with 7 years suspended, followed by 5 years of supervised probation upon release. For Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Hilliard was sentenced to 3 years with 2 years suspended and 2 years of supervised probation upon release.

This matter was prosecuted by Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Lynnette Hill.

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