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PRESS RELEASE

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Attorney General Frosh Announces Convictions of Two Baltimore Men for the Murder of Cordelle Bruce

BALTIMORE, MD (September 13, 2022) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today announced the convictions of Christopher Brown, 22, and Daran Horton, 23, both of Baltimore, for the January 2020 murder of Cordelle Bruce. A Baltimore City jury found Brown and Horton guilty of first-degree murder and related handgun charges.

On January 14, 2020, Cordelle Bruce was shot and killed in the 1100 block of E. Belvedere Avenue in Baltimore City. The investigation revealed that Bruce, Brown, and Horton were at The Alameda Shopping Center in Baltimore. During that time, a botched marijuana sale occurred, after which Bruce left the shopping center on foot. Shortly thereafter, Brown and Horton followed Bruce in Horton’s vehicle to the 1100 block of Belvedere Avenue and shot and killed him.

After a four-day trial in front of the Honorable Judge Paul E. Alpert of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, a jury convicted Brown of first-degree murder, use of a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence, wearing/carrying/transporting a firearm, possession of a firearm while under the age of 21, and possession of a firearm with a disqualifying conviction. The jury convicted Horton of first-degree murder, wearing/carrying/transporting a firearm, possession of a firearm while under the age of 21, and possession of a firearm with a disqualifying conviction. Both Brown and Horton face the possibility of life in prison. They each will be sentenced later this year.

“Brown and Horton hunted the victim down and shot him dead in the middle of the street,” said Attorney General Frosh. “In addition to the homicide, they were charged with illegal possession of a firearm. I appreciate the hard work of our Organized Crime Division and our law enforcement partners in getting these individuals off the streets.”

“I would like to thank the Maryland Attorney General’s Office, ATF, BPD Detectives and all of our regional law enforcement partners for their work on this case. These convictions are the result of the tireless efforts of all the involved agents, detectives and officers. Continuing to identify, arrest and convict offenders and holding those who commit crimes accountable shows that building strong partnerships is a path to continued success,” said Baltimore Police

Commissioner Michael Harrison. “It is my hope that justice is served and it brings closure to the family and friends of Cordelle Bruce.”

“Where there is drug dealing, there are guns, and that is a volatile combination we see too often in Baltimore,” said ATF Baltimore Special Agent in Charge Toni M. Crosby. “Disagreements and botched deals being resolved with firearms perpetuate murder and violence. It creates offenders who lack regard for human life and the safety of communities. ATF, the Baltimore Police Department, and the Maryland Attorney General’s Office will continue applying the trifecta of partnership, crime gun intelligence, and relentless investigative efforts to remove violent criminals from Baltimore streets.”

In making today’s announcement, Attorney General Frosh thanked Organized Crime Chief Katie Dorian and Assistant Attorneys General Krystle Sanders and Samantha Mildenberg who prosecuted the case. Attorney General Frosh also thanked Special Agent in Charge Toni M. Crosby of the Baltimore Field Division of the ATF, Commissioner Michael S. Harrison of the BPD as well as their agents and detectives who worked on the case.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2022/091322a.pdf>