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PRESS RELEASE

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Baltimore Man Seeking to Avenge the Murder of Cordelle Bruce Convicted on Multiple Charges, Including Attempted First-Degree Murder

BALTIMORE, MD (March 10, 2023) – Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown today announced guilty verdicts in an arson and murder-related case involving Jimmy Murphy. After a five-day jury trial before the Honorable Judge John Addison Howard, of the Baltimore City Circuit Court, jurors found Murphy, 28, of Baltimore, guilty of conspiring to commit first degree murder and the attempted murder of Christopher Brown on January 20, 2020. Murphy was also convicted of second-degree arson and the altering of physical evidence, both of human remains and a Ford F-150 pick-up truck. Judge Howard will sentence Murphy in July.

On January 20, 2020, Murphy, along with Cornelius Bruce set out to seek revenge against [Christopher Brown](#) for the January 14, 2020 murder of Cordelle Bruce, who is the brother of Cornelius Bruce. Murphy and Cornelius Bruce drove a black Ford F-150, rented by Cornelius Bruce, to the 1000 Block of Reverdy Road where they found Christopher Brown and began shooting at him. During the shooting, a bullet meant for Christopher Brown, struck Cornelius Bruce, killing him. In an attempt to cover up his actions, Murphy then drove the Ford F-150 with Cornelius Bruce's body inside to an abandoned field in the 2800 Block of Saint Lo Drive. The Baltimore City Fire Department responded to the field where they found the F-150 ablaze. After extinguishing the fire, firefighters found the body of Cornelius Bruce inside the charred remnants of the vehicle. Just prior to the fire being set, Murphy was captured on video at a gas station, located just blocks away from the scene of the fire, filling up a red gas can. It was later determined by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner that Cornelius Bruce died as the result of a single gunshot wound.

The investigation was led by the Attorney General's Organized Crime Unit, the Baltimore City Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' Crime Gun Enforcement Team, Task Force-Group VII, the Baltimore City Fire Department, and the Howard County Fire Department.

"I pledged to the people of Maryland that the Office of Attorney General would play an active role in safeguarding our communities against crime, and that includes bringing to justice the most violent offenders" said Attorney General Brown. "The investigators and prosecutors in the Organized Crime Unit are highly trained and skilled, and we are determined to focus on

disrupting and eliminating the gun violence associated with the drug trade in our neighborhoods. Two people lost their lives, and several others are behind bars, all over a disagreement about drugs. No one wins when individuals decide to engage in extra-judicial retaliation.”

“Acting on vendettas has disastrous results, ensuring the violent cycle of retaliation never ends,” said ATF Baltimore Special Agent in Charge Toni M. Crosby. “The next time someone in Baltimore wants to retaliate, I hope they think of this case and ask themselves if it is worth it. ATF’s strong partnership with Baltimore Police Department and the Maryland Attorney General’s Office ensures individuals using guns and arson to harm others will be held responsible for those crimes.”

In making today’s announcement, Attorney General Brown thanked Organized Crime Chief Katie Dorian, and Assistant Attorneys General Krystle Sanders and Megan Greene, who prosecuted the case. The Attorney General also thanked Baltimore City Police Commissioner Michael S. Harrison and Special Agent in Charge of the ATF Baltimore Field Office Toni M. Crosby, the Baltimore City Fire Department, and the Howard County Fire Department for their partnership in this investigation. Attorney General Brown also thanked State’s Attorney for Baltimore City Ivan Bates.

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