



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conviction and Sentencing

Woman Convicted of 2020 Murder of Ex-Boyfriend in DeKalb County, Following Special Prosecution by Cherokee County District Attorney's Office State vs. Teryn Blakeney

March 3, 2026 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that Teryn Blakeney, 29, of Stone Mountain, has been found guilty and sentenced for the 2020 murder of her former boyfriend in DeKalb County. The Cherokee County District Attorney's Office of the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit prosecuted the case after the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office recused itself.

On February 27, a DeKalb County jury found Blakeney guilty of felony murder, aggravated assault, and possession of a firearm during a crime, and acquitted Blakeney of malice murder. The jury deliberated for about two hours before returning its verdict.

On March 1, DeKalb County Superior Court Judge Yolanda C. Parker-Smith sentenced the defendant to life in prison plus 5 years.

“The jury’s verdict affirms that the citizens of DeKalb County do not condone intentional acts of violence, and this sentence underscores the gravity of the defendant’s conduct,” said Cherokee County District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “A young man’s life was cut short, and a family now lives with an irreplaceable loss. We were honored that our office was entrusted with this case and grateful to help ensure that justice was served.”

Charges stem from an investigation conducted by the DeKalb County Police Department. On the evening of August 9, 2020, police officers responded to a 911 call reporting a shooting near the former Soni Food Mart building on Memorial Drive in Stone Mountain. The victim, 24-year-old Dalvin Dishawn Thomas, was found on a path behind the building, suffering from a single gunshot wound to his femoral artery. Thomas identified the defendant as the shooter before being transported to the hospital, where he later died.

Detectives determined the defendant and the victim had been dating for approximately nine months before ending the relationship. On the evening of the murder, Blakeney asked Thomas to meet her at her apartment. The two began arguing and Blakeney later described herself as “enraged.” The victim left the apartment while Blakeney was upstairs. After discovering Thomas had left, Blakeney armed herself with a loaded .40-caliber handgun and drove around searching for him. She found Thomas outside the food mart, where he had walked from the apartment. She fired one shot, hitting him from behind as he walked away from her. She then left the scene.

“At a time when the relationship had ended, the defendant chose to escalate an argument into deadly violence. She armed herself, sought out the victim, and shot him as he walked away. Her actions left him to die alone on a dark path, and today’s sentence recognizes the devastating loss her choices inflicted,” said Assistant District Attorney Alana Driscoll, of the Cherokee County District Attorney’s Office, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State.

During the five-day trial, the State called 12 witnesses to the stand, including a witness who heard Thomas cry out as he ran from the defendant onto the path behind the store. The State also introduced nearly 50 exhibits, including surveillance video from the scene and the defendant's recorded interview with law enforcement. Four witnesses testified for the defense, including the defendant.

At sentencing, the victim's mother and aunt described the profound loss Thomas' death has caused their family, stating that nothing will make up for their life sentence of grief.

The case was investigated by the DeKalb County Police Department, with assistance from the Stone Mountain Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Alana Driscoll, with assistance from Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Geoffrey Fogus, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.

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