

NEWS RELEASE

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September 11, 2015

Man who killed two brothers resentenced to life in prison without parole

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Following a resentencing hearing, Montrez Benjamin Williams, 25, has once again been sentenced to *life in prison without the possibility of parole* for the 2008 murders of brothers Josh Davis, 17, and Terry Long, 18. The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, Superior Court Judge, entered the order today in Mecklenburg County Superior Court.

Williams shot the unarmed brothers in June 2008 in a Charlotte neighborhood. In 2011, [a jury found Williams guilty](#) of two counts of first-degree murder. Judge Lewis, who presided over the trial, sentenced Williams to two consecutive sentences of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Under North Carolina law at the time, adult defendants (age 16 and older) convicted of first-degree murder were required to be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Williams' resentencing hearing, which was held in April 2015, was necessitated by a 2012 U.S. Supreme Court ruling. In the *Miller v. Alabama* case, the Supreme Court held that states could no longer impose mandatory sentences of life without parole for first-degree murder in cases in which the defendant was under age 18 when the murder was committed. The Supreme Court ruled that, instead, the sentencing judge must have discretion to decide between a sentence of life in prison without parole or a lesser punishment.

Williams was only 45 days shy of his 18th birthday when he fatally shot Mr. Davis and Mr. Long. At the resentencing hearing earlier this year, the Assistant District Attorney argued that the brutality of the crime and Williams' violent criminal history warranted a sentence of life in prison. After considering court records, evidence and the attorneys' arguments, Judge Lewis determined that two consecutive sentences of life in prison without the possibility of parole was the appropriate sentence in this case.

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Montrez Williams