

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Man sentenced to life in prison after jury finds him guilty of 2013 murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A jury's guilty verdict today sent Arthur Lee Givens, 41, to prison for the rest of his life for the murder of Donald Everett Gist, Jr., 38. The trial began November 17, 2014, in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Givens for first-degree murder. Before the trial, Givens chose to plead guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in connection with the same incident. After the jury found him *guilty* of first-degree murder, Judge Levinson sentenced him to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

In December 2013, Givens encountered Mr. Gist outside of a convenience store on Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte. As Givens approached Mr. Gist, he produced a handgun and shot Mr. Gist five times at close range. The shooting was captured on a surveillance camera.



Arthur Lee Givens

The following is a statement from Mr. Gist's father, Donald Gist, Sr.: "I'd like to express my gratitude to the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office and staff for the diligent legal prosecution of a dangerous criminal. The Gist family would also like to thank the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department for the professional work done in apprehending and bringing to justice this murderer."

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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