

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPARTANBURG MAN RECEIVES LIFE PRISON SENTENCE FOR MURDER CONVICTION

A Spartanburg man received a life prison sentence today for shooting a local teen to death.

Rashaun J. Sobers, 20, was found guilty of murdering 18-year-old Sabastian Jaramillo at the conclusion of a three-day jury trial. Sobers is not eligible for parole.

The shooting occurred April 21, 2009 at Basil Court, westside neighborhood off East Blackstock Road. Sobers fled the crime scene in the aftermath of the shooting and was arrested 3 days later in Charlotte, NC.

Solicitor Trey Gowdy and Principal Deputy Solicitor Barry Barnette utilized eyewitness testimony, medical evidence and video obtained from a witnesses' cell phone to prove their case.

Sobers admitted to shooting Jaramillo during his testimony on Wednesday but he said Jaramillo wasn't in the intended target. He added that he didn't know Jaramillo's name prior to the violence.

Sobers told jurors he stopped on Basil Court to pick up a friend and was suddenly attacked by an angry mob of people. Sobers testified he pulled a handgun from his late model Chevrolet Impala and shot the gun in self - defense to get his attackers away from the car. Jaramillo sustained a gunshot wound to the side of his head while sitting in the back seat of a nearby car.

"Sabastian was looking away from the defendant's car when he was shot and that is proof there was not an angry mob," Gowdy said.

On cross-examination, Solicitor Gowdy pointed out the inconsistencies between Sobers' testimony and his statements to police following his apprehension in North Carolina. Gowdy also asked Sobers explain why he failed to report the shooting and fled to North Carolina if he was truly acting in self-defense.

"Today's verdict will hopefully provide some closure for the Jaramillo family," Gowdy said. "They can rest easier knowing Rashaun Sobers will be behind bars for the rest of his life."

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