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For Immediate Release

September 10, 2026

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Butcher Convicted of Attempted Murder in Thanksgiving Shooting

On September 8, 2026, following a two-week trial, a New Hanover County jury returned guilty verdicts in the State v. Uriah Butcher for events occurring on November 25, 2021. Butcher was convicted, as charged, of Attempted First Degree Murder, Conspiracy to Commit First Degree Murder, Assault with a Deadly Weapon with the Intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury, and four counts of Discharging a Firearm into an Occupied Vehicle in Operation. The Honorable Ricardo Jensen sentenced Butcher to 280-360 months in the Department of Adult Correction.

Witnesses testified that midday on November 25, 2021, Thanksgiving Day, Quashawn Pearsall and his family were at Dr. Stylz clothing store on Market Street when they encountered Butcher at the store entrance. Pearsall and his family quickly left the shopping center in fear of Butcher. Butcher acquired a firearm from unknown people in a nearby vehicle and got into the passenger seat of a vehicle that followed Pearsall. Pearsall and his family were chased down Market Street, and Butcher began shooting at them between Forest Hills Drive and Kenwood Avenue in the area of the Phoenix Mart. Six cartridge casings were recovered by Crime Scene Investigators from the Market Street roadway, and the vehicle driven by Pearsall's family had damage from multiple gunshots.

When Butcher shot multiple times into Pearsall's family's vehicle, it was driven by a pregnant woman and was occupied by both Pearsall and another family member in the back seat. The backseat passenger suffered a gunshot wound to the back and a had bullet fragment lodged in his temple from the shooting.

Pearsall was killed the following day, on November 26, 2021, at the Bennett Village Apartments in southern New Hanover County. Butcher was caught on video fleeing that scene and breaking into a neighboring property, where he stole and changed into clothes at that residence. Butcher and Ahmad Tate were charged with Pearsall's murder. Ahmad Tate was arrested on November 27, 2021. Butcher and Ahdon Tate were charged with the November 25, 2021 shooting and were apprehended on December 8, 2021.

Butcher was tried in 2024 for the murder and the Thanksgiving Day shooting. In that trial, the jury found Butcher guilty of Breaking and Entering and Larceny after Breaking and Entering and not guilty of Conspiracy to Commit First Degree Murder with Ahmad Tate. The jury was unable to reach a verdict on

First Degree Murder, Attempted First Degree Murder, Conspiracy to Commit First Degree Murder, Assault with a Deadly Weapon with the Intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury, and four counts of Discharging a Firearm into an Occupied Vehicle in Operation. Due to the jury finding Butcher not guilty of the conspiracy with Ahmad Tate, the murder charge against Butcher was dismissed.

Ahmad Tate pled to Voluntary Manslaughter on June 23, 2025, for the killing of Pearsall. He was sentenced to 59-83 months in the Department of Adult Correction.

Ahdon Tate's charges for the Thanksgiving Day shooting are still pending. His cases remain in Superior Court and are awaiting a new trial date.



Uriah Butcher



Ahmad Tate