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Woman Convicted of First Degree Murder

A New Hanover County jury has convicted Keisha Baldwin, age 34 of Wilmington, of First Degree Murder. Judge Billy Strickland of Wayne County sentenced Baldwin to life without parole following approximately five days of evidence being presented during the trial.

On February 26, 2022 at 1:35 a.m., a Shotspotter alert indicated that several shots had been fired near the intersection of South 5th Avenue and Kidder Street. When officers responded to the Edge Lounge they discovered that Tammy Hayes, age 45, had been shot in the chest. Hayes succumbed to the gunshot wound the same day. Video surveillance of the incident indicated that a woman dressed in black clothing fired several rounds from a handgun before taking off in a nearby vehicle. Wilmington Police officers and detectives were able to quickly identify the shooter as Keisha Rene Baldwin and were able to apprehend her a few hours later without incident.

"The defendant is going to spend the rest of her life in prison based on the senseless murder of Ms. Hayes. We are happy to get justice for Ms. Hayes and her family with this verdict" Assistant District Attorney Sean Spiering said. "Those who engage in gun violence will be prosecuted at to the fullest extent of the law. Ms. Baldwin's actions that night put others at risk, and it is fortunate that no one else was killed," District Attorney Jason Smith said.

The Edge Lounge was the target of a nuisance abatement action that was a collaboration between the District Attorney's Office, the City of Wilmington, and North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement. It has since closed.

Detectives with the Wilmington Police Department investigated this case. The State was represented by Assistant District Attorneys Sean Spiering and Jenna Markwitz, and the defendant was represented by Attorney William Boney.



Keisha Baldwin

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