



OFFICE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG
MONUMENT TERRACE BUILDING
901 CHURCH STREET
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24505
(434) 455-3760
FAX (434) 846-5038
WWW.OCALYNCHBURG.COM



BETHANY A. S. HARRISON
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

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MATTHEW T. VORDERMARK
ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY
DIRECT PHONE NUMBER
(434) 455-3769
E-MAIL ADDRESS
MVORDERMARK@OCALYNCHBURG.COM

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

AJA DESHAWN CORDELL THOMPSON SENTENCED FOR AGGRAVATED MALICIOUS WOUNDING, ROBBERY, USE OF A FIREARM IN THE COMMISSION OF A FELONY, AND GRAND LARCENY OF AN AUTOMOBILE

Aja Deshawn Cordell Thompson (Thompson) appeared before Lynchburg Circuit Court Judge R. Edwin Burnette, Jr. on June 20, 2018 and pled guilty to the following: (1) Aggravated Malicious Wounding; (2) Robbery; (3) Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony; and (4) Grand Larceny of an Automobile. In exchange for these pleas of guilty, the Commonwealth declined to proceed with a charge of Burglary. Sentencing was set for August 1, 2018.

The Honorable Judge Burnette sentenced Thompson to a total of fifty-three (53) years, with thirty-four (34) years suspended upon the following conditions: (1) Thirty (30) years of general good behavior; (2) Twenty-four (24) months of supervised probation; (3) Payment over \$503,525 in restitution to the victims of his crimes. Total active time of incarceration is nineteen (19) years.

On July 28, 2017 Thompson arranged to have the victim of the aggravated malicious wounding meet him in the 1000 block of Pierce Street to buy marijuana. The victim and Thompson did not know each other. When the victim arrived, Thompson entered the victim's vehicle, produced a firearm, and proceeded to rob him. When the victim attempted to produce a firearm to protect himself, Thompson shot the victim in the face and fled the scene. After being shot, the victim's vehicle went forward and crashed into a tree.

The victim spent several weeks in the University of Virginia hospital with life threatening injuries to his head and leg. The victim testified at sentencing that he now has a rod in his leg, his eye will not close, and the injuries have affected his ability to work.

During the period in which Thompson avoided arrested on charges from the events of July 28, 2017, he committed a burglary on October 31, 2017. He entered the victim's home after dark and stole the family car from the driveway.

Thompson was arrested on November 2, 2017, while in possession of the stolen car. Interviews with Detective Allen Kittrell and Detective David Clarke of the Lynchburg Police Department led to Thompson confessing that he arranged the meeting with the first victim with the intention

of robbing him, and he admitted to shooting the victim. Thompson also confessed to breaking into the home of the second victim and stealing the car.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Matthew Vordermark. Thompson was represented by Robert Feagans, Esq.

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