



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE

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State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that the Honorable Judge Ronald White sentenced **Eric L. Brown, Jr. (DOB: 8/26/1991)** to 120 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for First Degree Murder, Armed Robbery and Armed Habitual Criminal. Brown was convicted of the offenses after a bench trial before Judge White in January, 2024.

On October 15, 2019, Rockford Police Officers responded to 4874 Harrison Avenue after a report of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers located an adult male, near the front entrance to an apartment, with gunshot wounds. The male was identified as Robert Wash. Wash was transported to a Rockford Hospital where he died as a result of his injuries. During the investigation, detectives learned that Wash arrived at the apartment complex shortly after an armed robbery had occurred there. When he, and the residents inside were attempting to leave, Wash was shot. Evidence presented during the trial showed that Wash was shot by the defendant, Eric Brown. Witnesses to both the armed robbery and shooting identified Brown as the suspect during a photo lineup.

The sentence of 75 years is for First Degree Murder and is served at 100%. This sentence runs consecutively to the 45 years sentence for Armed Robbery which is served at 50% and is concurrent to the 30 years sentence for Armed Habitual Criminal served at 85%. As part of his sentence, Brown will be on mandatory supervised release for three years after he is released from prison.

Eric Brown is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence for a 2019 Armed Habitual Criminal charge that arose when the defendant was arrested for this murder on November 6, 2019, because he was in possession of a handgun. These sentences will run concurrently.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. First Assistant State's Attorney Ken LaRue handled the prosecution.

CONTACT PERSON:

J. Hanley, Winnebago County State's Attorney