



OFFICE OF  
**STATE ATTORNEY**  
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

May 10, 2024

**PRESS RELEASE**

State Attorney Ginger Bowden Madden announced that on May 9, 2024, 23-year-old Shannon Lee Wheat was adjudicated guilty of Attempted Second Degree Murder with a Firearm and Shooting At, Into, or Within a Building. The defendant was sentenced to 20 years in state prison for the crimes after both the State and defense presented evidence, witness testimony, and argument to the Court. Judge Linda Nobles presided over the sentencing hearing after the defendant entered a plea straight to the Court with the final sentence to be rendered at the discretion of the judge.

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On August 30, 2022, the defendant opened fire and discharged approximately nine bullets into a crowded convenience store in broad daylight. The intended victim, Anthony Westery, was struck with three bullets, and another customer in the store was struck by a bullet. Other bullets were fired through the storefront window, into the door frame, and into the ceiling of the store. The entire incident was captured on surveillance video recorded by the convenience store. During the investigation, law enforcement discovered the defendant opened fire and shot at the victim over an argument about Mr. Westery parking in front of a gas pump. The argument was started by the defendant's girlfriend when she thought Mr. Westery was going to hit her car while parking his car. The surveillance video showed clearly that the victim did not come close to hitting the girlfriend's car, and Mr. Westery was walking away from the argument and into the store when the defendant opened fire.

During the sentencing hearing, Assistant State Attorney Ki McInnis argued that this defendant posed an imminent danger to the victim, Anthony Westery, and he showed a depraved mind with no regard for Mr. Westery's life. By shooting at an unarmed stranger and into a crowded convenience store over an argument regarding parking a car, the defendant obviously poses a danger to the community, and the best way to protect the community is to sentence him to twenty-five years in state prison.

The investigation was conducted by investigators with the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. Assistant State Attorney Ki Misora McInnis prosecuted the case and represented the State of Florida. For further information, please contact the State Attorney's Office at 850-595-4200.