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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Prince William County, VA

Prince William County Commonwealth's Attorney Amy Ashworth announces the successful prosecution of Taron Jarrell Thomas for second degree murder, aggravated malicious wounding, two counts of use of a firearm in commission of a felony, conspiracy to commit robbery, attempted robbery, and felony homicide.

Commonwealth of Virginia v. Taron Thomas

On December 22, 2020, Taron Thomas and another individual set up a marijuana deal in the Tackett's Mill Shopping Center in Woodbridge, VA. The evidence showed that during this transaction, Mr. Thomas fired six shots, striking two victims. Mr. Thomas' companion, Daquil Smith, fired seven shots. Mr. Matthew Costanzo suffered eight gunshot wounds and was pronounced dead shortly thereafter despite law enforcement and emergency medical efforts to save him. The victim's companion suffered one gunshot wound through her arm into her torso. She survived this shooting thanks to the emergency efforts of Officer Appau with Prince William County Police and emergency medical services.

On August 8, 2022, a Prince William County jury found Taron Thomas guilty of all counts following a four-day trial in the Circuit Court. A sentencing hearing for Mr. Thomas is scheduled for January 26, 2023.

Mr. Thomas' companion, Daquil Smith, was previously found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony on September 13, 2021. His case is currently on appeal with the Court of Appeals of Virginia.

Amy Ashworth, Commonwealth's Attorney, offered the following comment about this case:

"Our office is committed to the prosecution of violent offenders. This was a challenging case, and I am extremely proud of the prosecutors that worked diligently to bring justice to the surviving victim and Mr. Costanzo's family."

The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney commends Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys M. Duffey Valentine and Collin Crookenden, the Prince William County Police Department, particularly Detectives Zaimis, Cupka, and Giordani, for their investigation of this case and Tamara Thomas, Director of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office Victim Witness Program, who provided valuable support for the victims' families and friends.

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Amy Ashworth is the elected Commonwealth's Attorney for Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. She was elected in November 2019. The Commonwealth Attorney's Office can be reached from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. every business day by phone at 703-792-6050 or email at cwoffice@pwcgov.org.

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