



For Immediate Release

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## Man Sentenced to 95 Years in Prison for Shooting Sheriff's Deputy

**Fort Worth, TX** – Leland Earl Williams, 37, pled guilty to aggravated assault against a public servant and was sentenced by a Tarrant County jury to 95 years in prison.

The case was prosecuted by Tarrant County Assistant District Attorneys Dale Smith and Victoria Lydahl.

On November 27, 2023, Tarrant County Sheriff's Deputy Brent Brown was working off-duty as a security guard at the Fort Worth Community Credit Union on Brentwood Stair Road.

Williams got up from a seat in the lobby of the Credit Union and then quickly approached Deputy Brown, who was sitting nearby. Williams fired several shots, striking Deputy Brown at nearly point-blank range.

Despite being shot, Deputy Brown returned fire.

"Deputy Brown almost died that day," Smith told the jury. "Deputy Brown, after being shot twice, began firing, saving the lives of countless people."

Williams fled the scene but was later arrested after a brief standoff at a relative's house.

Deputy Brown was rushed into emergency surgery and underwent months of rehabilitation. He has since recovered and is back on duty.

"This was an unprovoked, highly intentional act against Deputy Brown," Lydahl told the jury.

"The question is: How does Tarrant County answer the call of 'Officer Down?'"

Smith called on jurors to think about Williams – what he did, the person he is, and the choices he made – when deciding how long he should be behind bars.

"Send a message about our home, the place we live, the place we expect to walk around without harm, ... the place we respect law enforcement," Smith said.

District Attorney Phil Sorrells praised the teamwork and dedication of the Fort Worth Police Department and prosecutors.

"This sentence sends a clear message: attacks on our peace officers will not be tolerated," Sorrells said. "We stand shoulder to shoulder with law enforcement to keep Tarrant County safe."

Sorrells also thanked DA Investigator Caleb Blank and Victim Coordinator Laura Medina for their work on this case.