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Fort Worth Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Killing Cousin

Fort Worth, TX – A Tarrant County jury found Jacoby Roberts, 25, guilty of capital murder for killing his cousin, Jailon Freeman. He was given an automatic sentence of life in prison.

Tarrant County Assistant District Attorneys Matt Rivers and Ashton Moore represented the State.

The crime took place on April 4, 2023, outside an apartment complex in south Fort Worth on Ivy Wood Lane.

Roberts believed Freeman, his 25-year-old cousin, owed him money from drug deals the two conducted. So Roberts helped set up a fake drug deal, lured Freeman out of his apartment, and shot him in the back of the head.

Roberts grabbed a bag of cocaine and a handgun Freeman had with him and ran from the scene.

"This was an ambush," Rivers told the jury. "He knew what he did was wrong, so he ran."

Moore stressed that this killing was calculated and premeditated.

"This is not a misunderstanding, it is not a drug deal gone bad," Moore said. "Jacoby Roberts made a plan (and) executed that plan."

"Follow the law," Rivers implored the jury. "He's guilty of capital murder."

Two other men also were arrested in Freeman's death – Jordan Thurman and Draylon Gowans. Both were charged with capital murder for the roles they played in setting up the fake drug deal. Thurman and Gowans have yet to be prosecuted.

Special thanks to DA Investigator James Desmarais and Victim Advocate CeCe Jones for their work on the case, as well as to the Fort Worth Police Department for their dedicated work to bring justice to the victim and for their commitment to keeping our community safe.

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