

Marion County Prosecutor's Office



Ryan Mears, Prosecutor

   @MCProsecutors

 mcpo@indy.gov

Media Release:

December 17, 2021

Contacts:

Michael Leffler, Michael.Leffler@indy.gov

Destiny Burgos, Destiny.Burgos@indy.gov

Jason Epeards sentenced to 55 years for his role in fatal robbery of Lavon Drake

Epeards is the third and final individual sentenced in this matter

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced today that Jason Epeards has been sentenced to 55 years with 45 years executed in the Indiana Department of Correction for his role in the 2018 fatal robbery of Lavon Drake. In October, a jury returned guilty verdicts on the charges of Felony Murder and Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (Level 2 Felony) after a three-day trial.

Drake was shot and killed when Epeards and two other men lured him to a vacant home in the 14400 block of Kristen Circle. Drake was a manger-in-training and came into work on his day off to help deliver pizzas when he was killed.

“Today’s resolution marks the end of a long and difficult process for the Drake family, who have exemplified fortitude and grace for more than three years as we worked to obtain justice on behalf of Lavon,” Prosecutor Mears said.

Epeards is the third individual charged and convicted for his role in the fatal robbery. In July, Jasean Dale was convicted of Murder, Felony Murder and Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (Level 2 Felony) and was sentenced to 60 years in the Indiana Department of Correction. Juwann Terry pleaded guilty to Murder and Robbery (Level 5 Felony) and received a 60-year sentence in 2019.