

NEWS RELEASE



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MAN MUST SERVE MORE THAN 13 YEARS FOR 2007 SHOOTING DEATH OF ASBURY PARK TEEN

On January 22, 2010, Tywann Graves, 23, of Asbury Park, N.J., was sentenced to a 16 year State Prison term for first degree Aggravated Manslaughter. Pursuant to the "No Early Release Act," Graves must serve approximately 13 years, 7 months and 9 days before he becomes eligible for release on parole. The charge stems from the October 18, 2007, shooting death of 19 year old Justin Johnson, also of Asbury Park.

Graves' codefendant, Antonio T. Allen, 21, of Willingboro, N.J., was also sentenced on January 22, 2010. Allen received a sentence of time served as a condition of 3 years probation for third degree Hindering the Apprehension of Another in connection with the fatal shooting. Allen received a similar sentence for third degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance which arose out of an unrelated incident which occurred on September 17, 2009, also in Asbury Park. The sentences for both crimes are to be served concurrently. Allen was in custody for 822 days prior to being sentenced.

Graves and Allen entered guilty pleas to the charges pursuant to negotiated plea agreements on November 19, 2009, before Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Richard W. English. Judge English also imposed the sentences. The plea agreements were reached after consultation with, and with the approval of, the victim's family.

On October 18, 2007, at approximately 10:23 p.m., officers from the Asbury Park Police Department responded to the vicinity of 298 Asbury Park Village in Asbury Park following a report that shots had been fired and that a man was "down." Upon arrival, the responding officers found Mr. Johnson lying on the ground with two apparent gunshot wounds. Asbury Park First Aid personnel and M.O.N.O.C. Paramedics arrived shortly thereafter. Mr. Johnson was transported to Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, N.J., where lifesaving efforts were attempted. Mr. Johnson was pronounced dead by Dr. Hanna at 11:15 p.m.

An investigation into the shooting was immediately commenced by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the Asbury Park Police Department. The investigation revealed that Mr. Johnson was walking through Asbury Park Village when two subjects approached him from the rear. Before Mr. Johnson had a chance to run, Graves fired two shots, ultimately causing Mr. Johnson's death. The two subjects then fled the scene.

Allen was arrested on October 24, 2007. Graves was arrested on April 17, 2008. Both men were held at the Monmouth County Correctional Institute in lieu of \$1,000,000 bail, which was set by Superior Court Judge Paul F. Chaiet, from the date of their arrest until they were sentenced.

The case was assigned to Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Decker. Graves was represented by Ralph E. Stubbs, Esquire, of Elberon, N.J. Allen was represented by John O. Goins, Esquire, of Elizabeth, N.J.

Released: January 22, 2010