



OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY

MICHAEL F. McAULIFFE
STATE ATTORNEY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe announces the Jury's Recommendation of Life Without Parole and the sentencing of Eddie Vincent Rutledge to Life Without Parole for his convictions for First Degree Murder With A Firearm and Conspiracy To Commit First Degree Murder With A Firearm

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe announces that the jury has recommended a sentence of Life Without Parole for defendant, Eddie Vincent Rutledge, who was found guilty after a jury trial on September 27, 2010, of the following criminal offenses:

- 1) First Degree Murder With A Firearm 782.04 1a1 (C F) - Possible Statutory Maximum Sentence: Death Penalty
- 2) Conspiracy To Commit First Degree Murder With A Firearm 782.04 1a1 (1 F) - Possible Statutory Maximum Sentence: 30 Years in Prison

The defendant was sentenced on October 1, 2010, to Life in Prison Without Parole in the Department of Corrections on Count 1 and 30 years in the Department of Corrections on Count 2, to run consecutive to the sentence on Count 1.

The evidence at trial showed that on November 26, 2007, the defendant was scheduled to stand trial for a burglary, which he was accused of committing along with Kenakil Gibson in the Oaks East neighborhood of Palm Beach Gardens. George Mannerino, who was the chief state witness in that case, identified Eddie Vincent Rutledge and Kenakil Gibson as having come from the back of his neighbor's residence.

A week and a half prior to the burglary trial, Mr. Rutledge and Mr. Gibson sought the services of an associate to kill Mr. Mannerino or to find someone who would do so. When that request failed to produce results, Eddie Rutledge procured a rifle, went to a local gun store and purchased a high powered scope. This occurred just four days prior to the murder of George Mannerino. On the evening of November 25, 2007, the day prior to the scheduled commencement of the burglary trial, George Mannerino was gunned down as he stood in his garage smoking a cigarette. The rifle for which Rutledge had purchased the high powered scope was located by police shortly after the murder several houses west of Mannerino's residence. DNA testing on the firearm revealed that Rutledge was the source of the major DNA profile on the trigger guard, trigger, hammer and stock of the rifle.

State Attorney Michael McAuliffe congratulates Assistant State Attorneys Andrew R. Slater,

Barbara Burns and Daniel Funk and Detective John Boyle of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department for their efforts in the investigation and prosecution of this case.

FOR FURTHER

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