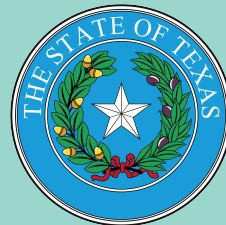




Sharen Wilson Criminal District Attorney



For Immediate Release

Contact: Anna Tinsley Williams, Communications Officer
atwilliams@tarrantcountytx.gov (817) 884-3120

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Reaction to Aaron Dean Sentence

(Fort Worth, TX) – A Tarrant County jury Tuesday sentenced former Fort Worth Police Officer Aaron Dean, 38, to 11 years, 10 months and 12 days in prison for the 2019 killing of Atatiana Jefferson. The jury last week found Dean guilty of manslaughter, a second-degree felony.

Tarrant County Assistant Criminal District Attorneys Dale Smith and Ashlea Deener prosecuted this case along with CDA Investigators Marvin Brown and Jose Hernandez.

"This verdict and sentence won't bring Atatiana Jefferson back," Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson said. "This trial was difficult for all involved, including our community. My sympathies remain with Atatiana's family and friends and I pray they find peace.

"This trial wasn't about politics and it wasn't about race," Wilson said. "If someone breaks the law, they have to be held accountable. The jury agreed. We thank the jury members for making sure justice was served."

396th District Judge George Gallagher presided over the trial.

To see the work and dedication of prosecutors Dale Smith and Ashlea Deener, please watch the attached videos of their closing arguments for the punishment phase.

- Dale Smith's closing in punishment phase: https://youtu.be/P_rfG5AK-Ts
- Ashlea Deener's closing in punishment phase: <https://youtu.be/ihqJAoWPrgA>

