



Sharen Wilson Criminal District Attorney



For Immediate Release

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Man sentenced to life in prison for robbing, killing Arlington store clerk

(Fort Worth, TX) – A Tarrant County jury Monday found Dorian Ray Woodard, 20, guilty of the 2021 murder of Jordan Hightower, a 31-year-old clerk at a south Arlington E-Z Mart. Woodard received a sentence of life in prison, plus a \$10,000 fine, for the crime.

Tarrant County Assistant Criminal District Attorneys Matt Rivers and Kyle Russo detailed for the jury what happened.

About 3:30 a.m. January 17, 2021, Dorian Woodard went into the E-Z Mart south of Interstate-20 near Matlock and Bardin roads in Arlington. He walked through the store, shopping, then approached the counter after other customers left.

He pulled a handgun on the clerk, Jordan Hightower, and shot him several times. Woodard tried to open the register but was unsuccessful. He gathered some merchandise, left the store and returned for more.

"This was a senseless act of violence," Russo said.

Hightower was unconscious and on the floor behind the counter for more than an hour before someone called 9-1-1. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Surveillance cameras at the store showed a person shoot Jordan Hightower and take items from the store. The shooter was later identified as Woodard.

"This is about a life lost," Matt Rivers said. "That is why we are here."

This trial won't bring him back.

The facts are clear: Jordan Hightower was shot. He was left suffering. He died alone. His family will never see him again.

"I'm asking you to do the right thing by (Jordan Hightower's) family," Matt Rivers said.

"This family needs justice.

"Just do the right thing."

CDA Investigator Clint Leach and Victim Advocate Laura Flores worked on the case as well. 371st District Judge Ryan Hill presided over the trial.