



**STATE OF KANSAS  
Tenth Judicial District**

**From: Steve Howe**

**Date: June 21, 2017**

**(Olathe, KS)**

Today, Judge Thomas Kelly Ryan sentenced James A. Willis to a life sentence for his role in the homicide of Jurl Carter. James Willis was convicted by a jury on April 7, 2017 of premeditated first degree murder and criminal possession of a weapon by a convicted felon. Willis will not be eligible for parole until he serves at least 50 years in the Kansas Department of Corrections. His "Hard 50" sentence will run consecutive to a federal firearms conviction, which he was on supervised release for at the time of the homicide.

James Willis' brother, Dale M. Willis, was also convicted by a jury of the premeditated first degree murder of Jurl Carter and battery on September 1, 2016. Dale Willis also received a "Hard 50" sentence in his case.

The homicide occurred on September 16, 2015 in the parking lot of The Roxy nightclub in Overland Park, Kansas.

The convictions are the result of a joint investigation by the Overland Park Police Department, Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Kansas City, Missouri Police Department, and the Johnson County Sheriff's Office.

Assistant District Attorneys Vanessa Riebli and Alex Scott prosecuted both cases.

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