



PRESS RELEASE

Gang Member Sentenced to Life for Bank Robbery

October 14, 2015

Bryan, TX – A Brazos County jury sentenced Jamarrio Butler, 25, to Life in prison today after convicting him of Aggravated Robbery for the 2014 hold up of Prosperity Bank in Bryan.

Prosecutors presented evidence that Butler and an accomplice approached a woman outside of the Dollar General located at MLK and Highway 21 in Bryan. Butler held the woman at gunpoint and forced her to remove her three-year-old grandchild from his car seat and hand over the keys to the vehicle. Butler then took the woman's vehicle and drove to Prosperity Bank located at Highway 21 and Texas Avenue.

Jurors saw bank surveillance video of Butler, wearing a mask, walking into the bank with a silver revolver in his hand and threatening bank employees. Butler and his accomplice went behind the teller counter and took approximately \$15,000 in cash, before running out of the bank and leaving in the stolen vehicle.

Butler crashed the vehicle a short distance away from the bank and fled into a wooded area where he discarded his gun, which was never found. Bryan Police tracked Butler and his accomplice through the woods by following a trail of evidence and, after a brief foot chase, apprehended Butler. Butler initially lied to detectives about his involvement before ultimately confessing to the robberies.

At trial, Butler testified that the gun that he used was not real, which would have made him guilty of the lesser crime of Robbery. Prosecutors, however, were able to prove that the gun Butler discarded was real, and the jury convicted him of Aggravated Robbery.

During the punishment phase, prosecutors presented evidence that Butler had previously been to prison for robbing two convenience stores in Bryan in 2007. Jurors also heard about a Burglary of Crockett Elementary School that Butler committed as a juvenile.





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Prosecutors called multiple employees of the Brazos County Jail who talked about Butler's more than 20 disciplinary violations while there awaiting trial. Among those jail employees were several female staff members who told jurors how Butler routinely exposed himself to them and sexually harassed them.

Finally, prosecutors called the Gang Investigator for the Bryan Police Department who testified that Butler is a known member of the "Bloods" criminal street gang. The case was investigated by the Bryan Police Department and a Brazos County Constable from Precinct 4. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Ryan Calvert and Philip McLemore.

"We asked the jury to send a message to both law enforcement and criminals alike about how this community views people who commit armed robbery. With their verdict, these jurors upheld a standard of justice that has been well-established in a number of recent robbery cases." - Ryan Calvert & Philip McLemore, Assistant District Attorneys

