

## Marion County Prosecutor's Office



Ryan Mears, Prosecutor

   @MCProsecutors

 [mcpo@indy.gov](mailto:mcpo@indy.gov)

### Media Release:

February 2, 2024

### Contacts:

Michael Leffler, [Michael.Leffler@indy.gov](mailto:Michael.Leffler@indy.gov)

Marisa Watson-Juarez, [Marisa.Watson-Juarez@indy.gov](mailto:Marisa.Watson-Juarez@indy.gov)

## **Jalen Frierson convicted of 2022 murder and attempted robbery of Eric Preer**

*Frierson's codefendant, Hakeem Jackson, pleaded guilty prior to trial*

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced today that Jalen Frierson has been convicted for his role in the 2022 shooting death of Eric Preer. Frierson was convicted of two counts of Murder and Attempted Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (Level 2 Felony). A jury returned the guilty-as-charged verdict after a three-day jury trial.

Hakeem Jackson was also charged for his role in this crime. On Tuesday morning, prior to trial, he pleaded guilty to Attempted Robbery Resulting in Serious bodily Injury (Level 2 Felony), and Unlawful Possession of a Serious Violent Felon (Level 4 Felony).

“Eric Preer was a son, a father, an uncle, and a friend, who was simply working to provide for himself and his family when he was senselessly killed,” Prosecutor Mears stated. “I commend the deputy prosecutors, investigators, and witnesses for their contributions that led to justice for Preer and his family, who has endured such tragedy.”

On April 23, 2022, Frierson and Jackson entered a smoke shop on N. College Ave. where Preer was working. They can be seen on security footage aggressively approaching the victim before Frierson fires multiple shots at Preer, killing him. After the shooting the two individuals hop in a vehicle and flee the scene.

An IMPD covert robbery detective was able to locate the suspects' vehicle at an apartment complex nearby. A short time later, the vehicle drove toward the interstate where a brief pursuit with law enforcement ensued. When the vehicle came to a stop, Jackson was taken into custody. The murder weapon, a 9mm handgun, was located inside the vehicle.

A sentencing hearing has been set for March 4 at 1 p.m.