

Marion County Prosecutor's Office



Ryan Mears, Prosecutor

   @MCProsecutors

 mcpo@indy.gov

Media Release:

January 20, 2023

Contacts:

Michael Leffler, Michael.Leffler@indy.gov

Marisa Watson-Juarez, Marisa.Watson-Juarez@indy.gov

Dwayne Pope convicted of Murder, Attempted Murder for 2020 shooting

Pope shot and killed Dejure Taylor and wounded a man at east side motel

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced today that Dwayne Pope has been convicted of Murder, Attempted Murder, Aggravated Battery (Level 3 Felony), and Carrying a Handgun Without a License (Level A Misdemeanor) for the April 2020 shooting of Dejure Taylor and Robert Edwards. This verdict comes after a three-day jury trial.

In the early morning hours of April 4, 2020, Pope and two other individuals approached Taylor and the surviving victim while at the Motor 8 Inn located on the city's east side. There was a brief interaction and then Pope and another individual pulled firearms and began to shoot. During the shooting, Taylor was shot more than ten times. Taylor was pronounced dead at the scene, while the other victim was transported to a hospital in serious condition.

These events were captured on surveillance footage. Additionally, Pope could be seen leaving in a silver Nissan car, which was registered to his girlfriend. During the investigation, officers located the silver Nissan at a local hotel and Pope was taken into custody.

A search was carried out at both the hotel room that Pope was staying in and the vehicle. The search of the room revealed the clothing items that the shooter was seen wearing, and in the vehicle, there were three bullets matching the caliber and make of the fired casings found at the scene of the shooting.

A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for February 9 at 2:30 p.m.