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CARPENTERSVILLE MAN GETS 55 YEARS FOR MURDER AFTER DRUG DEAL GONE BAD

July 18, 2012

A Carpentersville man likely will spend the rest of his life in prison for a murder that resulted from a drug deal that turned violent.

Errick L. Brown, 41 (d.o.b. 10-9-1970), of the 100 block of Amarillo Drive, Carpentersville, was sentenced today by Circuit Judge Timothy Q. Sheldon to 55 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Brown was convicted in May by Judge Sheldon of two counts of first-degree murder. In addition, Judge Sheldon ruled that Brown personally discharged the firearm that caused the death of 25-year-old Joseph Vonner of Carpentersville.

On Oct. 9, 2009, Brown contacted Vonner, his roommate, and asked if he could obtain an ounce of powder cocaine to sell to a third party. Vonner acquired the cocaine and it was delivered to the third party in return for \$1,000. Brown and Vonner each received \$100 profit from the sale. The purchaser was dissatisfied with the quality of the cocaine and requested a refund. Brown returned his \$100 profit to the buyer and asked Vonner to do the same. Vonner refused. That evening at the residence they shared, during a birthday party for Brown attended by many, tensions increased between the men because of Vonner's refusal to provide the refund. Brown eventually obtained a .45-caliber handgun from his car in the garage, told a witness that he planned to shoot Vonner and returned to the house. At about 12:30 a.m.

Oct. 10, 2009, as Vonner was leaving through the front door of the house, Brown followed him and fired at least three shots directly at Vonner. One struck Vonner in the back of his head and another struck Vonner in the back of his left shoulder. Vonner died almost instantly. At least two people present in the house and one other person outside house witnessed the murder.

Brown, his 16-year-old son, his wife, one other witness and a 2-year-old immediately fled to Chicago. On Jan 6, 2010, after a warrant for his arrest was issued, Brown surrendered to Chicago police.

The sentence breaks down as 30 years for the murder plus a mandatory 25-year enhancement because Brown personally discharged the gun that killed Vonner.

Brown had been held in the Kane County jail since his arrest in lieu of \$2 million bail. Bond was revoked upon conviction.

“This murder and sentence are the result of drug use and drug dealing. History has shown that rarely do cases of drug use and drug dealing end well. This is another example,” Kane County State’s Attorney Joe McMahon said.

“Our thanks to Carpentersville Det. John Spencer and Det. Steve Drews, whose investigation and assistance in the trial preparation were invaluable in this conviction. Thanks also Kane County Assistant State’s Attorneys Alice Tracy and Andrew Whitfield, who prosecuted this case.”