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CHICAGO MAN, GUILTY IN '08 ELGIN MURDER, FACES MINIMUM OF 60 YEARS IN PRISON

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A Chicago man faces a sentence of at least 60 years in prison after he was convicted in Kane County court of killing a man in Elgin more than four years ago.

Dion Spears, 29 (d.o.b. 11-5-1982), of the 9700 block of South Princeton Avenue, Chicago, was convicted today by a Kane County jury of one count of first-degree murder, one count of armed violence, a Class X felony, and one count of unlawful possession of a controlled substance, a Class 4 felony.

In addition, the jury found that Spears personally discharged the firearm that caused the death of the victim, 29-year-old Derrick Bey.

The jury reached its verdict in less than two hours of deliberation.

At about 2 a.m. on Feb. 3, 2008, Spears and Bey were outside a banquet hall in the 800 block of North State Street, Elgin. An argument broke out, and Spears fired two shots from a Colt .32-caliber revolver that both struck Bey, one in the chest and one below the waist. Bey died a short time later. Spears began to run across State Street and was struck by a passing car and seriously injured. As Spears was in the ambulance, a police officer found a loaded Kel-Tec 9mm Luger semiautomatic handgun on him. At the hospital, Spears was found to have .9 grams of cocaine hidden in his mouth.

Associate Judge Patricia P. Golden set Spears' next court appearance for 1:30 p.m. July 24, 2012, in Courtroom 203, for post-trial motions and sentencing. Spears faces a sentence of between 60 years and life in prison in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The sentence includes a mandatory 25-years to life enhancement because Spears fired the handgun that killed Bey.

Spears had held in the Kane County jail in lieu of \$500,000 bail. Bond was revoked upon conviction.

"This is another example of someone who likely will spend the rest of his life in prison because he chose to shoot and kill someone to settle a dispute. I appreciate the Illinois Legislature's decision to provide tough sentencing laws for people who

illegally use firearms, particularly for those who use firearms for the commission of a crime,” Kane County State’s Attorney Joe McMahon said.

“We are grateful that the jurors thoughtfully reviewed the facts as they reaching this verdict. Thanks to the Elgin Police Department for it quick response to the scene and for its thorough work in collecting evidence. Thanks also to Kane County Assistant State’s Attorneys Scott Schwertley and Dan Carter, who prosecuted this case.”