

Office of the State Attorney
Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida
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MELISSA W. NELSON
STATE ATTORNEY

311 West Monroe Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202-4242
TEL: (904) 255-2500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: David Chapman
Phone: (904) 255-3004
Cell: (904) 524-6626
ChapmanD@coj.net

Oct. 11, 2019

MCGRIFF FOUND GUILTY OF MANSLAUGHTER IN DEATH OF SAHARA BARKLEY

State Attorney Melissa Nelson announces that Tairrah McGriff, of Jacksonville, was found guilty by a jury of Manslaughter with a Firearm, and Carrying a Concealed Firearm. Brown now faces a maximum of 30 years in Florida State Prison. A sentencing hearing is scheduled to be set by the Honorable Meredith Charbula the week of Nov. 18, 2019.

On New Year's Day 2018, Sahara Barkley, the victim, walked into a Riverside gas station to make a purchase and left her vehicle parked and running. While inside the store, an unknown male stole the car and Barkley gave chase on foot. She was unable to catch the car and returned to the store, where Barkley confronted a woman, McGriff. During the course of their interaction, McGriff pulled out a handgun and shot Barkley. The investigation led detectives to secure surveillance footage from the store that showed McGriff and the male together. The two parked their vehicle at a gas pump and walked toward the business together. While Barkley and McGriff are in the store, the male steals Barkley's car and Barkley gives chase before returning to confront McGriff. Surveillance from another business shows Barkley disengage after the initial confrontation and attempt to flee. McGriff then chases Barkley and shoots her. Barkley was transported to the hospital where she died from her injuries.

The case was investigated by Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and is being prosecuted by Assistant State Attorneys Corelynn Crawford and Dan Skinner.