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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Houston Man Sentenced to 80 Years in Prison For Murder

GALVESTON – A Galveston County jury has sentenced a Houston man to eighty years in prison for murder.

At approximately 5 a.m. on July 23, 2017, John Houston Wells and two other men followed Clarence James Humphrey to his home in League City. Wells and his two accomplices confronted Humphrey as he approached the front door. Security video showed Humphrey defending himself and trying to force the three assailants away from his front door. Wells and his two accomplices shot Humphrey multiple times, and Humphrey died shortly after at a hospital. Police learned that Humphrey's pregnant girlfriend was home at the time and concluded that Humphrey was trying to protect her and his unborn child by preventing Wells and his accomplices from entering the home. Police also suspected that the crime was related to illegal narcotics trafficking.

The DPS crime lab located DNA on a hat and two disposable gloves left at the scene. The DNA was traced to Wells and he was indicted for murder.

During the trial, Chief Assistant Criminal District Attorney Xochitl Vandiver-Gaskin and Assistant D.A. Quinten McConico showed the jury that Wells had previously been convicted of felony burglary of a habitation in Harris County. McConico pointed out to the jury that Humphrey lost his life because he was trying to protect his girlfriend and unborn child by preventing Wells and the other men from entering his home. After four days, the jury found Wells guilty of murder on Thursday.

During the punishment phase, prosecutors showed the jury that Wells also had a second prior felony conviction, for aggravated robbery. On Friday, the jury assessed punishment at 80 years in prison. According to Chief A.D.A, Vandiver-Gaskin, the DNA evidence was critical to the success of the case. Wells' accomplices have never been identified. Wells will be eligible for parole in 30 years.

The Galveston County Criminal District Attorney commends the League City Police Department for their work in this case, as well as the Galveston County District Clerk's Office for providing safety protocols during the trial.

Cause No. 18-CR-1954, 10th Judicial District Court, Judge Kerry Neves presiding.