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Press Release by Brad Rigby, District Attorney

BLR

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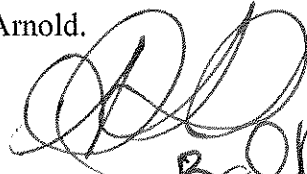
CROSHAWN GERARD CROSS

On Thursday, August 10, 2023, Croshawn Cross pled guilty in Crisp County Superior Court before Judge Chris Hughes to the Malice Murder of Crisp County Deputy Tye Brown and other crimes. Cross was sentenced to a composite sentence of LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE, WITH A CONSECUTIVE LIFE SENTENCE, AND A CONSECUTIVE FIVE YEARS TO SERVE. The plea stemmed from events that occurred in the early morning hours of July 5, 2023, wherein Deputy Brown stopped on Georgia Highway 280 West to assist a stranded motorist who was stopped in the roadway. When Deputy Brown called in the tag number for the stranded vehicle, dispatch informed him that the vehicle had been reported stolen out of Houston County. Deputy Brown then ordered Cross to walk slowly to the back of the vehicle.

After Deputy Brown placed one handcuff on Cross, Cross resisted, pulled a stolen Ruger handgun from his waist, and shot Deputy Brown in the head. Within seconds, Deputy Lance Spurling arrived on scene and observed Deputy Brown on the ground. Cross then aimed a second stolen firearm, a Smith and Wesson AR15 rifle, at Deputy Spurling, who took cover. Cross then stole Deputy Brown's patrol vehicle and fled at speeds of over 100 mph into the city of Cordele on 16th Avenue East. Cross led the officers and deputies on a high speed chase for approximately

an hour on Interstate 75 from exit 101 in Cordele into Monroe County, Georgia, where he was apprehended in the stolen Crisp County patrol vehicle by Monroe County deputies.

Cross pled guilty to Malice Murder, Felony Murder, Aggravated Assault (2 Counts), Armed Robbery (2 Counts), Hijacking a Motor Vehicle (2 Counts), Obstruction of an Officer (2 Counts), Felony Fleeing and Attempting to Elude a Police Officer, Possession of a Firearm During the Commission a Felony (6 counts), and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon (3 Counts). Kristina Browne Conley, mother of Deputy Tyee Browne, and numerous other family members attended the plea and were in agreement with the plea recommendation made by District Attorney Brad Rigby. Crisp County Sheriff Billy Hancock spoke on behalf of Ms. Conley and Deputy Browne's family. Deputy Browne's family appreciates the efforts of Sheriff Hancock, the Crisp County Sheriff's Office, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and the District Attorney's Office in their assistance to bring this case to its final resolution. Cross was represented by attorneys Tracy Mullis, Matt Maxwell and Lyndsey Arnold.



Brad Rigby
District Attorney