

Pierce County

Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 946
Tacoma, Washington 98402-2171
Administration: (253) 798-7792
FAX: (253) 798-6636

MARK LINDQUIST
Prosecuting Attorney

Main Office: (253) 798-7400
1-800-992-2456
Valid only within Washington State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 2011

JURY CONVICTS IN MURDER OF TACOMA CITY WORKER

Today a Pierce County jury returned four guilty verdicts against Olujimi Blakeney who was charged in the murder of 41 year old Lisa Melancon, a well known Tacoma code enforcement officer. The shooting occurred on July 22, 2010 in Tacoma. The jury found that the defendant manifested “extreme indifference to human life” when he shot and killed Melancon.

Jurors also found the defendant guilty of Drive-By-Shooting, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm in the First Degree and Assault in the Second Degree. Jurors and the Melancon family wept when the verdicts were read. The defendant faces a sentence of 50-62 years.

“The Melancon family and the Prosecutor’s Office appreciate the jurors’ service and verdicts,” Prosecutor Mark Lindquist said. “Deputy Prosecutor Gerald Costello, who tried the case, did an outstanding job on this important case for the community.”

Blakeney and two other defendants drove to a house in Melancon’s neighborhood to confront a couple who had been involved in an angry text message dialogue. A physical fight ensued. Blakeney fired a handgun into the air, breaking up the fight. As the defendants fled in a vehicle, Blakeney fired shots in the direction of a crowd of people and the victim’s home. Melancon, who was standing on her front porch and was not involved in the altercation, suffered a gun shot wound to the head and died at the scene.

Judge Tollefson set sentencing on August 3, 2011, at 1:30, Department 8, in the County-City Building in Tacoma.

For additional information please contact Rebecca Stover at (253) 798-4910 or rstover@co.pierce.wa.us