

# Pierce County

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BLAKENEY SENTENCED TO 61 YEARS FOR MURDER OF TACOMA CITY WORKER**

TACOMA, WA – Today Pierce County Superior Court Judge Brian Tollefson sentenced 26 year-old Olujimi Blakeney to 61 and a half years in prison for the murder of 41 year old Lisa Melancon, a well known Tacoma code enforcement officer. The shooting occurred on July 22, 2010 in Tacoma.

On July 20, 2011 a jury returned four guilty verdicts against Blakeney, including Murder in the First Degree, Drive-By-Shooting, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm in the First Degree and Assault in the Second Degree. The jury found that the defendant manifested “extreme indifference to human life” when he shot and killed Melancon.

The defendant did not make a statement at the sentencing. Lisa’s parents, Manuel and Kathy, and her brother, Vinney, spoke at the sentencing, recalling how important Lisa was to her friends, family, and community.

“Deputy Prosecutor Gerald Costello, who tried the case, did an outstanding job on this important case for our community” Prosecutor Mark Lindquist said. “Detective Brian Vold and the Tacoma Police Department built a strong case that led to these convictions.”

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.

For more information, please contact:

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