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JURY CONVICTS WALKER IN WALMART MURDER

Today a Pierce County jury returned six guilty verdicts against Odies Delandus Walker who was charged in the robbery and murder of Loomis Armored Car guard Kurt Husted at the Lakewood Walmart on June 2, 2009.

Walker was convicted of Aggravated Murder in the First Degree, Murder in the First Degree, Assault in the First Degree, Robbery in the First Degree, Solicitation to Commit Robbery in the First Degree and Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the First Degree.

Jurors also found that the defendant used a “high degree of sophistication or planning” when committing murder and that the crime involved a “destructive and foreseeable impact” on persons other than the victim. They further found that the defendant was armed with a firearm at the time of the commission of the crimes.

“We are grateful to the jury for convicting on all counts. Justice has been done,” Prosecutor Mark Lindquist said. “Deputy Prosecutors Dawn Farina and Jerry Costello did an excellent job on a challenging and complex case.”

Walker was the mastermind behind the murder and robbery of 38-year-old Kurt Husted, who was at the Walmart store to pick up the day’s cash receipts. The State argued that Walker planned the murder and robbery months in advance and obtained inside information from his girlfriend who worked at the store, Tonie Williams Irby. Walker recruited Calvin Finley and Marshawn Turpin as accomplices. On the day of the murder, Walker drove the getaway vehicle while Finley and Turpin entered the Walmart store, shot Husted and grabbed the money bag. That night Walker and his family dined at the Red Lobster.

Finley pleaded guilty to Aggravated Murder in the First Degree and is serving a life sentence. Turpin pleaded guilty to Murder in the First Degree and other charges. Williams Irby pleaded guilty to Murder in the Second Degree and Robbery in the First Degree. Both are pending sentencing.

Chief of Staff Dawn Farina and Deputy Prosecutor Jerry Costello prosecuted the cases. Sentencing is set for Walker on April 8, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 2B in the County-City Building in Tacoma. Walker faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

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

