



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## *Press Release*

### Murrell and Williams admit killing Milton's Gregory Cormier in 1994

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Two former Boston men have admitted that they ambushed and shot a young Milton man to death in 1994, ending a once cold case that was tried to conviction in 2003 and overturned by the SJC in 2008.

Kenyatte E. Murrell, now age 41, and Jameel A. Williams, age 37, pled guilty in Norfolk Superior Court to the lesser charge of Manslaughter for shooting Gregory Cormier to death and to Armed Assault with intent to Murder for shooting a passenger in the same car who survived the attack.

Manslaughter carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in state prison. Judge Raymond J. Brassard adopted the sentence recommendation of 19 ½ to 20 years in state prison for Murrell and 18 to 20 years in state prison for Williams for the manslaughter, each with concurrent 15 to 20 year state prison sentences for the Armed Assault to Murder.

Several members of Gregory Cormier's family were present for the plea. "I do not disagree with the sentiments expressed by the family, both to me personally and in court today, that the conduct of these men merited the punishments imposed in 2003, life in prison without possibility of parole," current Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said after attending the plea.

The prosecution's key witness, Shawn Castle who drove the men to the murder scene, was deported to his native Trinidad following the 2003 trial. After the SJC overturned the conviction, Morrissey sent a State Police Lieutenant to Trinidad to search for Castle, whose whereabouts on the island were unknown. Over the course of 5 days, that detective was able to locate Castle but was unsuccessful convincing him to return to testify; there is no extradition treaty with Trinidad. One police witness in the 2003 case is dead and another is retired.

"This was a difficult case in 2003. The loss of multiple witnesses, including the driver, left us with the choice between accepting a plea to manslaughter and the very real potential of walking away with a not guilty verdict after another trial," Morrissey said. "We have to deal with the state of the evidence today and make our decisions on that basis."