



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to 13 Years in Prison In Slaying at Northwest Washington Carry-Out

WASHINGTON - Adrian Terrance Lee, 35, was sentenced today to 13 years and three months of incarceration for killing a man in February 2009 outside a Northwest Washington carry-out restaurant, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

Lee, of Washington, D.C., was found guilty by a jury in October 2010 of voluntary manslaughter while armed and carrying a deadly weapon in the slaying of 22-year-old Chiagbanwe Ukaoma. He was sentenced today in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by the Honorable Gerald I. Fisher.

According to the evidence at trial, the victim and several members of his family went to the Howard China Carryout on February 25, 2009, in the 2800 block of Georgia Avenue NW. They were getting food as part of a celebration of the return of Ukaoma's cousin, who had just graduated from Michigan Technical University. Upon arriving at the carry-out, the Ukaoma family encountered Lee and four of his friends, who were also present and ordering food.

There was almost no interaction between the two groups within the carry-out. However, outside the establishment, one of Lee's friends took offense at Ukaoma's brother. After exchanging words, Lee's friend rushed into the street and began pummeling Ukaoma's brother. Ukaoma and his cousin saw the beating and rushed to help their relative, only to encounter Lee, who held them back in order to keep the fight "one-on-one."

The Ukaoma family ultimately dodged Lee, who was armed with a knife, and came to their relative's help. Meanwhile, Lee and another of his friends joined the fray. During the ensuing melee, Lee stabbed Ukaoma straight through the heart. The victim died shortly thereafter.

Upon his arrest, Lee gave a statement in which he claimed that he had acted in self-defense. The claim was rejected by the jury after his testimony at trial was substantially impeached by his many prior inconsistent statements concerning his role in the offense.

Judge Fisher, in imposing the sentence, stated that Lee “took the life of someone who was trying to intercede in a positive way.”

In announcing the sentencing, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Doug Carlson, Paul Regan, and Thomas Smith. He also praised the efforts of MPD Officers Thomas Coughlin and Pamela Cooper.

U.S. Attorney Machen also cited the efforts of employees in his office, including Paralegal Lynette Briggs and Administrative Supervisor Wanda Queen. He also thanked the outstanding support of the entire litigation services team: Joseph Calvarese, Ron Royal, and Leif Hickling. He expressed appreciation to Katina Adams of the Victim-Witness Unit. Finally, he thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jocelyn Ballantine, who tried the case, and George Pace, who investigated and indicted the case.

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