

**Office of the
State's Attorney
Kendall County, Illinois**



**Eric C. Weis
State's Attorney**

Kendall County Courthouse
807 W John St.
Yorkville, IL 60560

Main (630) 553-4157
Fax (630) 553-4204

PRESS RELEASE

February 13, 2025
For more information contact:
Eric Weis, State's Attorney
Kendall County State's Attorney Office
(630)553-4157

JURY CONVICTS BROWN OF 2020 DOUBLE MURDER

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis announced that James Brown Jr., of North Aurora, Illinois was found guilty after a four-day jury trial last week on two separate charges of First-Degree Murder. The jury found Brown guilty after just 3 hours of deliberation.

The case began around 11:00 am on Veteran's Day in 2020, when fourteen shots were fired into a house in the Boulder Hill subdivision. Inside the residence, there were six individuals. Two of those individuals, Cassandra and Changina Chatman, were struck by the bullets and both died because of their injuries. Intelligence gathered on the scene indicated the shooting being a form of gang retaliation. Based on multiple neighborhood cameras, a black Porsche Cayenne was identified and sent out to local departments as the suspect vehicle. That vehicle was found in North Aurora and followed to a residence where multiple people, including Brown, a self-identified Black Disciple street gang member, were taken into custody. The murder weapon used in these crimes was found in the car which Brown claimed was his. Brown was charged with the murder of both Cassandra and Changina and has remained in custody since his arrest.

In their closing arguments to the jury, Criminal Chief Frank Gorup and Assistant State's Attorney Ryan Phelps said that this case was a truly collaborative effort between multiple law enforcement agencies with one goal in mind, to catch the individuals responsible for these senseless deaths of two victims.

Weis echoed this sentiment when praising the two veteran prosecutors and agencies involved including the Kendall County Major Crimes Task Force, the Aurora Police Department, Oswego Police Department, Montgomery Police Department, Plano Police Department, Plainfield Police Department, and Oswego Police Department.

Special recognition went to members of the Kendall County Sheriff's Office who not only were the lead investigators on this case but provided amplified security at the courthouse, based on the gang involvement in this case.

Due to the senseless deaths of both victims, the defendant will be serving a life sentence without parole, Weis stated.

Brown was represented by Chicago defense attorney Joe Lopez.