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PRESS RELEASE

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LIFE SENTENCE FOR 2020 DOUBLE MURDER

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis announced that James Brown Jr., of North Aurora, Illinois was sentenced to natural life in the Illinois Department of Corrections today after being found guilty of two counts of First-Degree Murder in a nearly week-long jury trial in February of this year.

As previously reported, Brown was found guilty for the shooting deaths of Cassandra and Changina Chatman, who were killed in their home back on Veteran's Day of 2020.

Under Illinois law, when an adult has been found guilty of the murder of two people, the law is clear that natural life is the only permitted sentence.

"This case was senseless on so many fronts. Thankfully we have provided not only justice for the community, but certainly some amount of closure for the Chatman family. Gangs have no place in Kendall County. This case is a prime example of the unparallel cooperation of Kendall County law enforcement community which results in multiple guilty verdicts and a life sentence. Hopefully this will deter others from coming to Kendall to commit crimes of violence" Weis stated.

Weis praised not only the officers involved in this case, but also Criminal Chief Frank Gorup and Assistant State's Attorney Ryan Phelps who prosecuted the case. "These two seasoned attorneys spent long nights and weekends putting this case together, working tirelessly, in order to present a seamless trial."

Brown was represented by Chicago attorney Joe "the Shark" Lopez.