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DA.INFO@CLAYTONCOUNTYGA.GOV

TASHA M. MOSLEY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CLAYTON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clayton County District Attorney Tasha M. Mosley announces the conviction of Martez R. Pettway. The Defendant determined it was in his best interest to avoid trial, given the evidence obtained by the State, and instead entered a guilty plea to Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Battery, Cruelty to Children in the Second Degree, Violation of the Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act, and two counts of Theft by Taking.

The State was ready to present evidence showing that on July 31, 2022, the Defendant stabbed the victim multiple times while she was asleep with a one-year-old child in her lap. The victim survived the brutal attack, but sustained serious injuries. The child was not injured although they were covered in blood. The Defendant stated that he was angry towards his father, but could not kill him because the father was in jail. The Defendant said that he wanted to kill the father's side of the family. The Defendant admitted to attempting to kill the victim and asked if she was dead saying that he wanted the victim dead. The Defendant also told Law Enforcement that every time he thought about stabbing the victim, it made him smile. He also asked if it was bad if he didn't feel any remorse.

The State's case was presented by Assistant District Attorney Vladimirs Putjatins, Assistant District Attorney Anthony McKee, and Assistant District Attorney Brianna Jordan. Investigator Toni Thomas and Victim Advocate Candice Brown played crucial roles in this case.

Georgia Superior Court of Clayton County Senior Judge Geronda Carter accepted the plea agreement negotiated by the State and sentenced the Defendant to 20 years to serve followed by 10 years on probation.

District Attorney Mosley stated, *"There is no justification for this heinous act of violence. We hope this conviction brings some measure of comfort to the victims and their families, knowing the Defendant is being held accountable for his actions."*