



# CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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## LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE FOR PALM SPRINGS GANG MEMBER

INDIO, CA: Today, June 18, 2010, Riverside County Superior Court Judge James Hawkins sentenced a Northside Gateway Posse Crips gang member to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder of a Bower security guard in June 2007.

Jamar Leval Thomas, DOB: 12/01/88, was convicted on April 7, 2010, of first-degree murder with a special circumstance of committing the murder during the commission of a robbery. He was also convicted of participating in a criminal street gang and armed robbery. A jury recommended Thomas face life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder.

On June 9, 2007, 66-year-old Wallace Brown, a retired United States Marine, was working as an on-duty security guard for Bower Security. While he was sitting in his patrol vehicle in the early morning hours, he was attacked by four Northside Gateway Posse Crips gang members. Rocks were thrown at Brown's vehicle before he was approached by the men who tried to force him out of the vehicle. Brown struggled but was overpowered, pulled from the vehicle, severely beaten, and robbed. A Palm Springs police officer found Brown unconscious but alive and in critical condition. Brown never regained consciousness and died from his injuries three days later at Desert Regional Medical Center.

Palm Springs police detectives determined that Thomas, along with Darius Devon Lee, DOB: 08/05/88; Jerrett Martell Lewis, DOB: 07/03/1989; and Akil Nijee Williams, DOB: 04/10/90, were responsible for Brown's murder.

Lee is currently awaiting trial and faces the death penalty. Lewis faces a maximum penalty of life without the possibility of parole when he is sentenced on July 9, 2010. On May 10, 2010, Judge James Hawkins dismissed the case against Williams.

The case, INF058881, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Manny Bustamante.

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