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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAN FOUND GUILTY IN 2021 MURDER OF 7-ELEVEN CLERK

ELKTON – On Monday, March 2, 2026, a Cecil County jury found Sharif Quadir McCormick, 26, guilty in the 2021 fatal shooting of Brenda K. Duncan, who was shot while working the midnight shift at the 7-Eleven convenience store in the Elkton. McCormick faces the possibility of life in prison after he was convicted of First-Degree Murder and twelve other charges brought against him.

On November 30, 2021, at approximately 4:55 a.m., officers with the Elkton Police Department responded to the 7-Eleven convenience store in the 300 block of North Street, Elkton, for the report of a robbery in progress. Upon arrival, officers observed Duncan had been shot and was lying on the floor behind the counter. Patrol officers and paramedics rendered aid to Duncan, but she was pronounced dead at the scene.

Assistant State's Attorneys Nicole O. Owens and Henry M. Smithmyer prosecuted the case. During trial, surveillance video from the 7-Eleven was presented to the jury. The video showed McCormick, who was masked and wearing gloves, entering the store while another customer was inside. McCormick waited until the customer left the store then approached the counter, drew a handgun from the pocket of his sweatshirt, and shot at Duncan five times, striking her once in the back and killing her as she tried to run to safety.

Within days of the murder, the Elkton Police Department developed McCormick as a suspect. Store surveillance showed the shooter wearing a distinctive sweatshirt and jacket along with sneakers that had a particular pattern on them, which would later be located when detectives executed a search warrant at the home McCormick had been staying which was less than one mile from the crime scene. In addition to the articles of clothing, detectives located a handgun

and ammunition in a garage at the home that experts from the Maryland State Police Crime Lab were able to connect to evidence recovered from the crime scene. McCormick's DNA was also located on the recovered handgun. During the four-day trial, prosecutors also presented video surveillance from local businesses which helped track McCormick's direction of travel just before and after the homicide.

"Acts of violence will not be tolerated in this community, and my office will continue to pursue justice for victims of crime. Brenda Duncan lost her life in a tragic and senseless act of violence, and although nothing can undo this loss, my hope is that this guilty verdict is one step toward justice for Brenda and her loved ones who continue to honor her memory," said State's Attorney James A. Dellmyer. "I would like to recognize ASA Nicole O. Owens and ASA Henry M. Smithmyer for their dedication in seeking justice on behalf of Brenda. I would also like to thank the Elkton Police Department, who led this investigation, as well as the Delaware State Police, Newark Police Department and Maryland State Police, who assisted the Elkton Police Department. This was great police work, and I am thankful for the cooperation between agencies."

Sentencing for McCormick is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2026. McCormick will remain incarcerated as he awaits his sentencing.

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