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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ELKTON MAN CONVICTED OF MURDERING 7-ELEVEN CLERK RECEIVES
LIFE SENTENCE**

ELKTON – On May 11, 2026, Sharif Quadir McCormick was sentenced to serve the rest of his life in prison for the 2021 shooting of Brenda K. Duncan, who was fatally shot while working the midnight shift at the 7-Eleven in Elkton. The sentencing comes after a Cecil County jury found McCormick guilty of First-Degree Murder and other charges after his March 2026 trial.

In the early morning hours of November 30, 2021, officers with the Elkton Police Department responded to the 7-Eleven on North Street in Elkton for the report of a shooting. Store video surveillance captured McCormick, who was masked, entering the store and waiting until the only customer in the store left before he shot at Duncan five times. Duncan, who was behind the checkout counter, attempted to run from the gunfire but was fatally struck one time in the back. In addition to examining hours of video surveillance, as part of the investigation, detectives from the Elkton Police Department executed a search warrant at the Elkton home in which McCormick was staying. Evidence recovered from the home, including distinctive clothing, the handgun used in the murder, and ammunition, linked McCormick to the murder.

At sentencing, members from Duncan's family submitted victim impact statements to the Court. Duncan's sister spoke to the Court describing Duncan as "the gentle soul of our family." Family described how each day without their loved one is heart-wrenching and that their lives will never be the same. The statements described Duncan as a generous and loving woman who is deeply missed every day.

The Defendant spoke at sentencing and maintained his innocence. The Defendant's mother also spoke at sentencing and described having her son at an early age and stated she was not prepared to properly raise a child and asked the Court for McCormick to receive mental health treatment.

Assistant State's Attorney's Nicole O. Owens and Henry M. Smithmyer asked the Court to impose a Life sentence for the First-Degree Murder conviction with an additional twenty-six years to serve consecutive to the lead charge. ASA Owens described the act as "senseless." She noted that Duncan was not scheduled to be working that evening, but she was helping to cover the shift for a co-worker. ASA Owens spoke about the impact McCormick's decision to kill has had on all of those who loved Duncan. ASA Owens also reported to the Court that McCormick has an extensive history of criminal convictions to include handgun violations and robbery.

After hearing from family members of both McCormick and Duncan, considering the submitted victim impact statements, and listening to the attorneys' arguments, Cecil County Circuit Court Judge William W. Davis, Jr. went along with the State's recommendation and imposed a Life sentence with an additional consecutive twenty-six years for McCormick to serve in the Division of Corrections. Judge Davis also agreed with the State saying, "Senseless is the perfect term to use for the killing of Brenda."

Following the sentence, State's Attorney James A. Dellmyer stated, "No sentence can undo the pain inflicted on Brenda's family, but the verdict handed down in March, and this sentence reflects our commitment to seeking justice on behalf of victims and supporting their loved ones. I can only hope this outcome provides some peace as her family continues to remember her as being an incredible person."

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