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Trio Sentenced for 2016 Murder

All admitted to crime spree

The last of three men who admitted to killing another man in Portland during a crime spree that authorities said started when they drove from Seattle to Portland to engage in unlawful activities, has been sentenced to prison, Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt announced April 22.

All three pleaded guilty to manslaughter for their involvement in the 2016 death of Ravell Deshawn Sterling who was killed during a robbery as he was walking to the store. Clayton Harrell, 25, the most recent person to be sentenced in the crime was handed a term of 25 years. Rony Celis, 30 was sentenced to 18 years in prison on April 15 and Charles Moi Moi, 26, was sentenced last year to just over 33 years in lockup.

Each defendant will also serve additional prison time for Washington State crimes, Schmidt said.

The defendants were arrested when they attempted to flee by vehicle back to Washington after Sterling was killed, officials said, their escape foiled by a Portland Police officer who saw them and a police chase that spanned nearly 100 miles.



A family photo of Ravell Deshawn Sterling (left), the victim of a 2016 robbery and murder, with his sister, Shalisa Jackson.

"This has been a long and hard-fought case. The defendants came into our community with the intent of causing harm including taking things that did not belong to them and tragically ending a life. These acts are intolerable and demand accountability. Their combined sentences are over 75 years of prison time," stated Senior Deputy District At-

torney Nathan Vasquez.

The victim's family spoke to the court about the immense loss they experienced. "Ravell was loved by his friends and family, he worked hard in life at his day job and was beginning to realize his dreams of becoming a performing rap artist. He stayed out of trouble and cared for his family," stated his sister Shalisa Jackson.

Jails Worse for Blacks in Custody

Audit finds disproportionate use of force

A new audit finds that jail conditions in Portland continue to be worse for adults in custody who are Black, or if they have mental health conditions.

The investigation by Multnomah County Auditor Jennifer McGuirk and released to the public on Wednesday is the first in-depth report on conditions people experience when they are incarcerated in the county's jails, and also evaluates who is in our jails.

It backs up a 2015 report by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office that suggested that Sheriff's staff subjected some racial and ethnic groups to a disproportionate use of force. Then in 2017, the county pledged to make improvements to the jails based on a Disability Rights Oregon report that found improper conditions for individuals with mental health conditions.



A Multnomah County photo shows the Justice Center, downtown, which contains one of the county's jails. A new audit finds that jail conditions in Multnomah County are worse for adults who are black, or if they have mental health conditions.

Evaluating the most current jail data, audit investigators found that misconduct citations continue to be handed out disproportionately to Black adults in custody, saying the difference was statistically significant, meaning it was not likely the result of chance.

The team also found that Black adults in custody were subjected to minor uses of force, such as pointing a Taser or using handcuffs, infrequently, but still at a

disproportional and statistically significant rate.

Results for the conditions for adults with mental health conditions were more pronounced; with uses of force more frequent and also used disproportionately and at a statistically significant rate on adults in custody with mental health conditions.

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