



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LANDON BAYS' KILLER SENTENCED

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Khalil Malik Gaines, 24, of Springfield, Missouri, was sentenced today for the murder of Landon Bays.

On March 11, 2016, Landon Bays' body was discovered near the intersection of Catalpa and Douglas in Springfield. A witness found Bays' body while the witness was riding his bicycle to a convenience store. Bays had a gunshot wound to the back of his head, he did not have any identification, and he was only wearing shorts. Bays was transported to the hospital where he died from the gunshot wound.

The Springfield Police immediately began investigating this homicide. Bays' vehicle was found parked at a McDonald's near Sunshine and Campbell. The investigation was ongoing for over two years due to limited information about what happened. In the summer of 2018, a credible witness came forward with information establishing that Bays was picked up by Chad Murphy and Khalil Gaines at the McDonald's. Murphy and Gaines set up the meeting to purchase marijuana from Bays. However, instead of purchasing marijuana, the men decided to rob Bays. During the robbery, Bays was shot in the back of the head. Bays' body was dumped and Gaines fled to Arkansas.

In August of 2018, Gaines was indicted by a Greene County Grand Jury for attempted possession of marijuana, second degree murder, and armed criminal action. Gaines entered a guilty plea to all of the charges. Today, The Honorable James Carrier followed the State's recommendation and sentenced Gaines to 4 years for attempted possession of marijuana, 25 years for second degree murder, and 10 years for armed criminal action. Second degree murder is a dangerous felony which requires Gaines to serve 85% of the sentence before he is parole eligible.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Todd Myers. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department with Detectives Kent Shipley and Detective Cody Williams as the lead investigators.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v.
Gaines, 1831-CR04891

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