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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 1, 2018
Re: Kevin Jerome Barnes, Jr.
Sentenced as Accessory to Murder

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced that Kevin Jerome Barnes, Jr., age 21, of Modesto was sentenced after being convicted of being an accessory to murder after a jury trial on August 25, 2017. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On April 23, 2016 at approximately 9:44 pm, Falane Jones, 37, was shot and killed in the parking lot of an apartment complex across from Donnelly Park at 381 W. Hawkeye Avenue in Turlock. The victim had driven to the apartment complex with his uncle to visit some relatives. As the victim and his uncle were exiting their vehicle, a black Lexus drove up alongside them. The driver of that car, Devenae Price, 28, of Ceres, then shot the victim four times in the face, neck and chest. Two spent .40 caliber casings were located on the ground near the victim. The Detectives received tips that Barnes was the passenger and Price was the shooter.

On April 25, 2016 at approximately 11:15 pm, an Alameda County Sheriff's deputy got into a pursuit with a black Lexus after an attempted traffic stop in San Leandro, CA. The driver of the black Lexus drove down a dead-end street and onto the front yard of a home. Price, Barnes and their girlfriends all fled from their car. In the cowl, or the outside area of the black Lexus where the windshield meets the hood, deputies located two spent .40 caliber shell casings. Deputies also located several loaded and unloaded .40 caliber magazines as well as a loaded .40 caliber handgun.

A Department of Justice ballistics test confirmed that the two shell casings found at the scene of the murder matched the two shell casings that were recovered from the cowl of the black Lexus, although the firearm that was recovered did not match.

Cell phone records indicate that Price and Barnes were at the location of the murder during the time of the shooting in Turlock as well as at the location of the vehicle stop in San Leandro.

It was later discovered that Price had received the black Lexus from an Oakland dealership just hours before the murder.

Days before the jury trial was to start, Price wrote a letter in which he told people to lie and testify that another person did the shooting.

“Falane Jones was a single father of 9-year-old Falanie, named after him,” said his mother during a victim impact statement at sentencing. “He worked hard in a warehouse in Tracy to feed, clothe and raise her.” She went on to say that Falane was not involved in any gangs or drugs and the murder was committed because Price had mistaken her son for someone else.

Price had just been released from prison for approximately 35 days when he committed the murder after serving a seven-year prison sentence for armed robbery in Contra Costa County.

The judge sentenced Barnes to the maximum sentence of six years in state prison. Barnes was on probation out of Sacramento County for residential burglary when he committed the current offense.

Price, the shooter, had previously been sentenced to 60 years-to-life for the murder.

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