

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



**JOSEPH H. McMAHON**

State's Attorney

Kane County Judicial Center  
37W777 Route 38 Suite 300  
St. Charles, Illinois 60175

General Offices: (630) 232-3500  
Contact:  
Christopher Nelson (630) 232-3500

### **23-YEAR-OLD AURORA MAN GETS 55 YEARS FOR 2015 MURDER SHOT 19-YEAR-OLD TO DEATH OVER SMALL AMOUNT OF MARIJUANA**

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An Aurora man is headed to prison for shooting and killing someone over a small amount of marijuana.

Kane County Circuit Judge Donald M. Tegeler, Jr., today sentenced 23-year-old **Leon D. Williams** to 55 years' imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the Nov. 7, 2015, murder of 19-year-old Daniel Sanchez of Aurora. The sentence includes a mandatory 25-year enhancement because Williams personally fired the gunshots that killed Daniel Sanchez.

Williams on March 15, 2018, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder.

Kane County Assistant State's Attorney William Engerman stated in court that on Nov. 7, 2015, Daniel Sanchez agreed to sell a small amount of marijuana to Williams and the co-defendant. The three met at about noon at a location they had agreed upon. Sanchez got into the back seat of a car driven by the co-defendant. Williams also was in the back seat. They drove a short distance to the 600 block of Elmwood Drive to complete the drug deal. While in the car, Williams attempted to rob Sanchez of his money and the marijuana. Sanchez got out of the car and tried to run away. Williams chased him and fired two shots from a .25 caliber handgun, striking Sanchez in the leg and head. Williams returned to the car and he and the co-defendant immediately fled. Police arrived a short time later and found Sanchez lying on the ground bleeding. He was pronounced dead at Good Samaritan Hospital. The investigation led police to Williams and the co-defendant. While being interviewed by police, Williams admitted that he tried to rob Sanchez and shot him twice.

According to Illinois law, Williams must serve the full sentence. He receives credit for 924 days served in the Kane County jail, where he has been held since his arrest.

Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said: "I don't know if Leon Williams thought about whether Daniel Sanchez's life was worth a small amount of marijuana and some cash. He clearly did not consider the violent nature of his actions, nor did he consider his own freedom. His decision to commit a violent crime over a small

amount of illegal drugs destroyed two families, and demonstrated the serious threat that drugs pose to the community. As Daniel's mother said to the court during today's sentencing hearing, this didn't have to happen. They could have let Daniel run away. Guns and drugs are a bad combination, and violent crimes deserve severe punishment. That's why Mr. Williams will most likely spend the rest of his life in prison. My thanks to the Aurora Police Department and ASAs Engerman and Matthew Rodgers for their hard work in this case," McMahon said.

The charges against the co-defendant are not proof of guilt. The co-defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the state's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

**Leon D. Williams:** Age 23 (d.o.b. 9-19-1994), of the 2400 block of North Farnsworth Avenue, Aurora