

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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## CHICAGO MAN GETS 95 YEARS IN 2018 ELGIN DOUBLE MURDER

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Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser announces that 26-year-old **Travaris D. Stevenson** has been sentenced by Judge David P. Kliment to 95 years of imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections in the April 2018 shooting deaths of Raymond Dyson and Mark McDaniel, both of Elgin.

In November of 2021, a Kane County Jury found Stevenson guilty of the felony offenses of first-degree murder, second-degree murder and armed violence.

Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Greg Sams, Hillary Sadler and Hannah Thayer presented evidence that, at about 2 p.m. on April 29, 2018, Stevenson and his co-defendant met Dyson, 29, and McDaniel, 26, in a parking lot in the 1-99 block of Longwood Place, Elgin. Stevenson traveled from Chicago to Elgin to sell a pound of marijuana to the victims. Stevenson got into the back seat of a car. Dyson and McDaniel were in the front seats. Stevenson shot Dyson in the back of the head, McDaniel twice in the back and then fled on foot with the co-defendant and the marijuana. Elgin police caught the men a half-mile from the crime scene about 20 minutes later.

During the sentencing hearing, prosecutors presented more than two dozen photographs from the defendant's mobile phone that showed him posing with numerous guns, including AK-type weapons, and multiple other guns with extended magazines, many of which included laser sights. All of these photographs were taken while the defendant was on parole for a previous felony and was prohibited from possessing guns.

In addition, prosecutors noted that Stevenson is charged in Cook County in an unrelated shooting during a drug transaction that occurred a month before he murdered Dyson and McDaniel. The pending charges are not proof of guilt. Stevenson 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.

The sentence is 35 years for the first-degree murder plus a 25-year enhancement because Stevenson personally fired the gun, 20 years for the armed violence and 15 years for the second-degree murder. The terms are to be served consecutively.

According to Illinois law, Stevenson must serve the full murder sentence, must serve at least 85 percent of the armed violence sentence, and is eligible for day-for-day sentencing on the second-degree murder sentence.

Stevenson receives credit for 1,428 days served in the Kane County jail.

**ASA Sams said:**

“The murders of Mark McDaniel and Raymond Dyson show why there are laws that prohibit selling large amounts of marijuana. Those sales are fraught with the high risk of violence, as participants on both sides usually are armed with guns, believing the other side may have motives other than a peaceful drug sale. That is what happened in Elgin on April 29, 2018. The defendant shot Raymond Dyson in the back of the head, and Mark McDaniel in the back, killing both of them. His actions, his criminal history, his infatuation with possessing guns when he was on parole and prohibited from doing so, all were reasons for the judge to hand down this sentence, which will protect the community from the defendant for many years.

“The residents of Elgin should be proud of the work its police officers did in this case, with special thanks to Detectives Scott St. John, Chris Hughes, and Carla Carter. My thanks also to ASAs Sadler and Thayer for their excellent work.”

**Travaris D. Stevenson:** Age 26 (d.o.b. 11-15-1995), of the 5000 block of West Congress Parkway, Chicago, Illinois. Case No. 18CF875.