

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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JURY CONVICTS CHUCKIE CHATMAN OF MURDER IN 2020 DEATH OF ERNEST HARDY MINIMUM SENTENCE IS 39 YEARS IN PRISON

August 10, 2022

*RE: **Chuckie E. Chatman**: Age 32 (d.o.b. 3-6-1990), of the 800 block of Victoria Drive, Montgomery, Illinois. Case No. 20CF2168.*

Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser announces that a jury has found **Chuckie E. Chatman** guilty of the offenses of first-degree murder and three counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm, Class 1 felony.

Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys William Engerman and Jake Matekaitis presented evidence that Chatman had been upset that 40-year-old Ernest Hardy was dating the mother of his children, and had made threats against the woman. On October 16, 2020, Chatman went to the woman's residence on Best Place in Aurora, but she refused to let him inside. The woman called Hardy, who drove to her residence. Around midnight October 17, 2020, the two left in Hardy's vehicle. Chatman began to follow them at high speed and Hardy accelerated north on Redwood Drive. A passenger in Chatman's car whose identity is unknown to authorities fired multiple gunshots at Hardy's vehicle, striking it four times. One of the gunshots struck a rear tire, causing the vehicle to skid out of control and strike a parked car. Hardy suffered a fractured spine in the crash and died five days later. The woman, uninjured, climbed from the car before police arrived and ran home.

Judge Alice C. Tracy set Chatman's next court appearance for 1:30 p.m. October 24, 2022, in Courtroom 313 at the Kane County Judicial Center for motions and sentencing. Chatman faces a minimum sentence of 39 years of imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Chatman remains in custody at the Kane County jail, where he has been held in lieu of \$1 million bail since his arrest. Judge Tracy revoked his bond upon conviction.

ASA Engerman said: "Mr. Chatman's actions began and exacerbated a chain of events that directly led to the death of Ernest Hardy. He showed a distinct lack of appreciation

for human life that our community does not tolerate. My thanks to ASA Matekaitis for his excellent work in this trial, and to victim advocates Martha Martinez and Linda Hagemann. Special thanks to Aurora Police Det. Darrell Moore, Aurora Police Sgt. Jason Shettles and the entire Aurora Police Department for their work.”