



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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CASE OF INTEREST

Defendants Sentenced for Crime Spree Involving Multiple Robberies, Rape

DATE: October 13, 2017

CASE: Anthony Cotton, Latrale Way, Lamar Edwards & Donny Smith (Case #14F05913)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Aaron Miller, Career Criminal Prosecution Unit

The Honorable Michael Savage sentenced Anthony Cotton to 49 years plus 8 months to life in prison. Latrale Way was sentenced to 108 years to life in prison. Lamar Edwards was previously sentenced to 16 years in prison and Donny Smith was previously sentenced to 15 years in prison.

On November 22, 2016, a jury convicted Anthony Cotton of kidnapping for purposes of robbery, first-degree residential robbery, second-degree robbery, attempted robbery, residential burglary, and assault with intent to commit rape during a residential burglary. Latrale Way was convicted of two counts of kidnapping for purposes of robbery, kidnapping for purposes of rape, first-degree residential robbery, assault with intent to commit rape during a residential burglary, forcible digital penetration, forcible rape, attempted robbery, second-degree robbery, and felony sexual battery. The jury also found true several firearm allegations connected to the crimes.

On September 27, 2016, co-defendants Lamar Edwards and Donny Smith pled guilty to first-degree residential robbery with personal use of a firearm allegations.

Between June and October 2014, the defendants committed a number of crimes in the Antelope and North Highlands areas. While committing a home invasion robbery, all four defendants held a man and his children in their house at gunpoint and ransacked the house. Two of the defendants then attempted to rape the man's 27-year-old daughter, but the father was able to run outside for help and the defendants fled. In a second robbery, Latrale Way and other unidentified suspects approached a man and a woman at a park. After the group robbed the man, Latrale Way kidnapped the woman and forced her to drive to an ATM machine to get money. Way then directed the woman to a nearby neighborhood and raped her in her car. Two weeks later, Cotton and Way committed three additional armed robberies in the same park. Forensic DNA testing conducted by the Sacramento County District Attorney's Crime Lab conclusively linked Latrale Way to the rape.