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For Immediate Release: Former Dallas Police Officer Amber Guyger Guilty of Murder

(Dallas, Texas) – Following a week-and-a-half of often intense and emotional testimony, a Dallas County jury found former Dallas Police Officer Amber Guyger guilty of murder in the death of her neighbor Botham Shem Jean and sentenced her to 10 years in prison.

Jean's parents, Allison and Bertrum, and other family members that have been in the courtroom since the trial began, immediately burst into tears as onlookers cheered from the courthouse hallway upon hearing the guilty verdict.

Guyger was charged with killing Jean, her unarmed, 26-year-old neighbor, in his own apartment at the South Side Flats, on September 6, 2018. Guyger testified she mistakenly entered Jean's apartment thinking it was hers, and believed she encountered a burglar.

Jean was sitting on his couch watching television and eating a bowl of ice cream when Guyger entered. As he stood up to see who was coming into his apartment, Guyger fired her weapon hitting Jean in the chest.

During the trial, Guyger took the stand in her own defense, testifying that she intended to shoot Jean because she feared for her life. Lead Prosecutor Jason Hermus said, "By God, in Dallas County, Texas, there will be a consequence for shooting an unarmed, defenseless man."

ADA Jason Fine echoed those sentiments, "This is about what a reasonable person, in the same circumstances, would do. There have to be consequences for your actions. Bo is dead because of her unreasonable actions."

During closing arguments, Chief LaQuita Long displayed for jurors something that the pastor told mourners at a recent service for Jean. It read—*To the defendant he was just a silhouette in a room. To EVERYONE who knew Bo, he was the brightest light in the room.* Long told jurors, “When you go back to think about a just sentence for Amber Guyger, I want you to think about giving her no less than 28 years because that is what Bo would have celebrated on Sunday—his 28th birthday.”

Jurors returned a sentence of 10 years for Guyger. She faced up to 99-years or life confinement in prison.

Special thanks to Lead Prosecutor and Chief Jason Hermus, ADA Jason Fine, Chief LaQuita Long, ADAs Bryan Mitchell, Mischeka Nicholson, Douglas Gladden, and Lead Investigator Tommy LeNoir, for their dedication and hard work on this case.

The District Attorney’s Office would also like to thank the jurors for their time and commitment to seeking justice for Botham Jean.