

Drive-by shooter sentenced

Receives 28 years in prison for role in incident that wounded teen

By Matt Busse

mbusse@newsadvance.com

(434) 385-5533

A prosecutor said Melvin Devon Abbitt, convicted of leading a drive-by shooting this year, is a violent gangster and "simply too dangerous to be on the streets."

Abbitt's attorney said the 22-year-old Lynchburg man needs direction and "made

some bad decisions."

After hearing both arguments Wednesday, a judge agreed with a jury's recommendation and sentenced Abbitt to 28 years in prison for his role in the March 27 shooting.

In September, a jury found Abbitt guilty of four felonies, including malicious wounding, for carrying out the crime at Greenfield Market with several others. During the

drive-by, Nymar "B-More" Thomas, 18, was shot in the leg.

"This was a bold, brazen attack," said Chuck Felmlee, Lynchburg deputy commonwealth's attorney.

Abbitt also was sentenced Wednesday to six years in prison for violating his probation from a 2002 cocaine possession charge.

Last month, Abbitt was given four years in prison for possessing a firearm as a felon.

Two days after the shooting, police found a loaded pistol in his car and linked it to shell casings recovered after the drive-by.

In all, Abbitt has nearly four decades in prison to serve on the six felonies.

Federal authorities are also investigating Abbitt on alleged gun- and drug-related crimes, Felmlee said.



Abbitt

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