

Man gets 18 years in shooting

Prosecutors say he was angry he was sold hamster bedding instead of marijuana

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A 20-year-old man will spend 18 years in jail after shooting another man over rodent bedding, a Lynchburg judge ruled Wednesday.

Terrill Andre Jones faced a variety of charges stemming from the drive-by shooting of James Antonio Jackson at the intersection of Boston Avenue and Fauquier Street in October 2012. Jones pleaded guilty to the charges in November 2013.

Prosecutors said Jones was angry because he had bought what he thought was \$1,200 worth of marijuana from Jackson. The purchase actually was bedding for animals such as gerbils or hamsters.

At sentencing in Lynchburg Circuit Court on Wednesday afternoon, the prosecution argued Jones presented "an extreme danger" to the community and asked for a 25-year sentence.

"This is not the wild, wild West. This defendant is out of control," Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee said.

"[Jones] didn't just talk to [Jackson],



Jones

try to negotiate or get his money back, he shot him four times. ... He tried to kill James Jackson."

The victim survived. Felmlee said police recorded Jones saying he was going to "finish him off."

Jones's lawyer argued he never explicitly said he was going to kill Jackson. If he had wanted to, Jones could have killed the man during the shooting, defense attorney Killis Howard said.

He said the shooting was meant to be retribution for the fraudulent deal.

Jones also faced an unrelated count of possession of cocaine. Howard told Judge F. Patrick Yeatts that Jones showed remarkable willpower by being exposed to the drug without forming an addiction.

Before issuing a sentence, Yeatts said Jones showed a "callous disregard for life, a callous disregard for the law.

"This court is going to send a message here and today that this will not be tolerated," he said.

He sentenced Jones to 20 years on the malicious wounding charge but suspended 10 years. Jones also received the mandatory minimum of three years for use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and the mandatory minimum of five years for possession of a firearm by a convicted violent felon.

In addition, Yeatts ordered Jones to pay restitution to Jackson, though the amount has yet to be determined.

He also was given an additional six months stemming from a drug charge from February 2013.