

Dequan Vereen Transcript

Defense Attorney: Good afternoon your honor.

Judge Lee: Good afternoon.

Judge Lee: Yes Sir.

Assistant Solicitor: Thank you your honor. (?John Conner?) filling in for (?) for this motion. Your honor, standing before us is Dequan Vereen represented by Mr. Joenathan Chaplin. Mr. Vereen has been charged with attempted murder and armed robbery. He currently has \$100,000 surety bond for the attempted murder charge and a \$75,000 surety bond for the armed robbery charge. It is my understanding that Mr. Chaplin is representing Mr. Vereen for the purposes of bond only, and I have a factual basis I want to record for this charge.

Judge Lee: Yes sir. I'm listening.

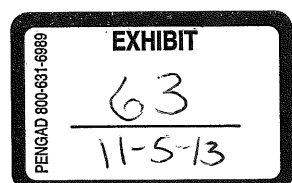
Assistant Solicitor: Thank you your honor. This incident occurred on November 14th of 2012, last year. On the evening of that day three unknown individuals wearing ski masks entered a corner pantry on Forest Drive. They were all armed with handguns. They demanded money and lottery tickets. At some point during this exchange the clerk in the store retrieved her own handgun which was behind the counter. There developed, shots were exchanged. At least one of the individuals who entered the store was wounded or hit and then they all fled. One of the individuals was wearing a Spider-Man mask and the Spider-Man mask was actually recovered a short distance from the corner pantry. A few hours later Richland County Sheriffs' Department received the notice from the hospital that an individual had checked in with a gunshot wound. Richland County Sheriffs' Department responded that the individual was the defendant in this case, Dequan Vereen. Richland County, after he had undergone surgery, and a few hours later, he did admit to being there and wearing a Spider-Man mask and being in the store, although I think he denied actually shooting but acknowledges that shots were exchanged. And that's the factual basis.

Judge Lee: Prior record?

Assistant Solicitor: He has no prior record.

Judge Lee: Mr. Chaplin.

Defense Attorney: Your honor, my client he's 18 years old. He attended Richland Northeast. He stopped in the 11th grade, got out in the 11th grade. He got a job at McDonald's to take care of his two kids. He has two two-year-olds. He



was working at McDonald's. He was working for two and half years. He became a trainer assistant. He played a little football while he was in high school. He has no record. Your honor, he lives with his grandmother. His grandmother is actually present in the court room today. He lives in Quail Run with her. His mother is actually here as well and his mother is over here. They both came in contact with me immediately upon him being arrested. Obviously, bond got set. Your honor, they want to do what they can to help with the situation, but in the meantime, he does have two kids. He's trying to, he was on a pretty good path until you know this incident. Your honor, I'm asking for a lower bond in order for him to be able to get out, obviously help me with the case as well, but then also help his family and do for them. I think his mother would like to say something at the appropriate time. Your honor, I'm asking for something in the neighborhood of \$25,000 \$30,000 for both bonds. Right now, obviously the solicitor explained, it's \$175,000 and that's virtually impossible based on his mother's income as well as his grandma's income, but they are willing to give everything they can in order to see this thing to the end. I think the mother would like to say something your honor.

Judge Lee: Yes ma'am, state your name please..

Defendant's Mother: My name is (?Anita Burry?). I am Dequan Vereen's mother. Just to give you insight, Dequan is a good boy. He's mainly a good father, a good person, everything. He takes care of his responsibilities with the help of me and my mother. Also, like I said, he's never been in trouble, nothing. He's a good child. He's a church going person. He's very good. I just ask you to be lenient with him please.

Judge Lee: Thank you.

Defendant's Mother: Thank you ma'am.

Defense Attorney: The grandmother does not wish to say anything at this time, but she is willing to say that she has, I guess you'd say she has laryngitis. She has been trying to talk to me today, and it hasn't been going to well. But in turn, your honor, I'm just asking for a nominal bond so he can get out and do what he needs to do your Honor.

Judge Lee: I'll reduce bond and make it concurrent to \$50,000 surety or 10% cash with the conditions no contact with the incident location or any of the co-defendants. No other special conditions.

Defense Attorney: Thank you your honor.

Assistant Solicitor: Thank you your honor.