



News Release

JUNE 23, 2015

RELEASED BY: COMMANDER DANIEL LYNCH

CASE# 13-44623

Event: Home Invasion CONVICTION

Date/Time of Event: July 10th 2013 with a conviction date of June 19th, 2015.

Update to a Home Invasion Arrest

On July 10, 2013 the Melbourne Police Department received a 911 call at 11:41 p.m. reporting that four black males, some armed with firearms, forcefully entered a residence on Pepper Avenue, in Melbourne, FL. The first responding officer arrived on scene within less than two minutes of receiving the call and issued a city wide "be on the lookout" for the suspects. While on scene, it was learned that the homeowner fired his handgun at the suspects and one of them may have been shot. Numerous firearms were recovered at the scene.

On the night of the event, additional responding officers began searching the area for the suspects, but it was an officer waiting at Holmes Regional Medical Center that would find them. One suspect, Bobby Culler, was dropped off at the hospital with a non-life-threatening gunshot wound to the arm. Two other suspects were stopped in a vehicle as they drove away from the hospital. One of the men in the vehicle, Leonard Valentine, was arrested and charged with armed burglary and violation of probation. The driver of the stopped vehicle was released and Culler was arrested for having an active warrant.

Detective Chad Cooper completed the follow-up investigation and found that this event was preplanned with military style tactics. The suspects were dropped off on an adjacent street, and then made their way to the back door of the residence. They then confronted one of the victims as she was lying on the couch with her child. The victim screamed and covered her baby. The homeowner quickly responded and confronted the males. The Homeowner fired his legally owned firearm striking Bobby Culler in the arm and thereby thwarting the home invasion.

The investigation was eventually completed and turned over to the State Attorney's Office who prosecuted the suspects. After a long and tedious case and a successful trial, one of the masterminds of this tragic event, Bobby Culler, was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. This concluded a violent episode with a successful ending for the victims and the City of Melbourne.

Chief of Police, Steve Mimbs would like to thank the hard working members of the Melbourne Police Department and the State Attorney's Office for taking this dangerous criminal off the streets.

State Attorney Phil Archer added that the community was the winner in this case. "Through excellent investigative work by the Melbourne Police Department, support from the community, and our hardworking prosecutorial staff, a dangerous criminal has been removed from the streets of Melbourne. Congratulations to all," Archer said.

Melbourne POLICE



Bobby Lee Culler
1/15/1988
Sentenced to Life in Prison

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