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STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF LAKE

NOV 29 2010
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SUPERIOR COURT OF LAKE COUNTY
CRIMINAL DIVISION
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

STATE OF INDIANA,

Robert Persin
CLERK LAKE SUPERIOR COURT

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Plaintiff,

v

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CAUSE 45G02-0910-MR-00011

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)
REO JON'TA THOMPSON,

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)
)
Defendant.

2010 073159

ORDER

11-18-10 The State of Indiana appears by Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys Robert Persin and Jamise Perkins. The defendant, Reo J. Thompson, appears in person and with Attorney Karen Freeman-Wilson. The defendant having entered a plea of guilty, pursuant to a plea agreement, which was accepted on October 19, 2010, the Court now enters judgment of conviction for the offenses of Count III, Murder in the Perpetration of a Robbery and Count IV, Murder in the Perpetration of a Robbery.

SENTENCING STATEMENT:

Having considered the written presentence investigation report, the contents of which the Court incorporates by reference, as well as I.C. 35-38-1-1.3, I.C. 35-38-1-7.1 and I.C. 35-50-1-2, the Court enters the following findings and sentence:

FINDINGS:

Aggravating Circumstances: The Court finds all of the following to be significant aggravating circumstances:

1. The defendant has a history of juvenile adjudications.
2. The victims of the offenses were at least sixty-five (65) years of age at the time of the defendant committed the offenses. They were well into their senior years, ages 78 and 76.
3. The defendant admits to membership in the Gangster Disciples street gang at the time the offenses were committed.
4. Multiple victims are involved.
4. The Court finds the nature and circumstances of the crime to be a significant aggravating factor and incorporates by reference all the facts set forth and agreed to in the Stipulated Factual Basis to support this finding. The victims were humiliated, tortured and made to suffer for several hours prior to being executed. The Court considers both defendants to be equally culpable. The Court specifically reiterates the following aggravating facts and circumstances.

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- a) Defendant forcefully entered the victim's home by means of subterfuge, i.e., complaining of car trouble.
- b) The victims were tortured and made to suffer in their own home. Mrs. McClendon was locked in a closet with a table placed against it.
- c) Mr. McClendon, who had just had a pace maker installed a few days prior, was made to crawl along the floor to the upstairs bedroom with a gun to his head while the defendants searched for valuables. At one point, he was struck with a vase and kicked in the face and head multiple times. The defendants left in the victim's vehicle at some point but returned later to kill them. In the interim, both victims were left separated in a bathroom and a closet with heavy objects placed against the door to prevent escape.
- d) The victims were ultimately placed in the trunk of their own vehicle. They were driven to a remote location where they were removed from the trunk and made to stand together.
- e) They were then and there executed. Mr. McClendon was shot several times in the upper body area and head. Mrs. McClendon was shot in the head. Their bodies were dumped in the weeds in a Forest Preserve.
- f) These crimes were vicious, cold-blooded and heinous, i.e., committed in a hateful and shockingly evil manner.

Mitigating Circumstances:

1. The defendant has no history of adult convictions, although he does have an arrest history.
2. The defendant admitted his guilt by way of plea agreement, thus saving the Court and the tax payers of this county the time and expense of a trial. The Court notes however that the evidence in this case was most persuasive and strongly favored a conviction had the case gone to trial.
3. The defendant has expressed remorse for his crimes.
4. The defendant was only 17 years of age at the time of the commission of the offenses.

After presentation of evidence and hearing argument, the Court finds that the aggravating factors far outweigh the mitigating factors.

SENTENCE:

The Court now sentences the defendant as follows:

The defendant is now ordered committed to the custody of the Department of Correction for classification and confinement in a medium security facility for a period of sixty (60) years on Count III and sixty (60) years on Count IV.

The sentence of imprisonment is to be served consecutively to each other pursuant to I.C. 35-50-1-2.

Pursuant to I.C. 35-38-1-5(b), the Court notes that it currently cost an average of \$53.96 per day to house an adult inmate at the Indiana Department of Corrections. The defendant's sentence calls for an executed term of imprisonment of 43,800 days. Accordingly, the estimated total cost to incarcerate the defendant for this term of imprisonment is \$2,363,448.00. This estimated cost does not include reductions which will result if the defendant is eligible to receive credit for time served in confinement prior to conviction, credit time earned to date or in the future, or any other credits against the sentence. The estimated cost also does not reflect any future changes in the cost of incarceration.

The defendant is to receive credit for 391 days spent in confinement as a result of this charge, plus 391 days of good time credit as provided by law for a total of 782 days credit toward the sentence of imprisonment.


The defendant shall pay a court costs fee, which the Court orders reduced to a judgment against the defendant.

The defendant has been advised of his postconviction relief rights and appeal rights and advises the Court that he wishes to appeal and has insufficient funds to hire his own lawyer. An Appellate Public Defender is appointed counsel at public expense to represent the defendant in the direct appeal. The clerk is directed to notify the Chief Public Defender of the defendant's request for appeal.

The defendant is remanded to the custody of the Sheriff of Lake County for execution of the judgment of the Court.

Pursuant to the terms of the plea agreement, the State of Indiana files a motion to dismiss Counts I, II, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII and XIV, which is granted. The clerk is directed to notify the Sheriff of Lake County. Cause is disposed. (Marianna Runkle reporting.)

SO ORDERED:


CLARENCE D. MURRAY, JUDGE, ROOM II (Sjm)

State of Indiana v REO JON'TA THOMPSON
Cause No. 45G02-0910-MR-00011

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Michael A Brown
Kathy Anderson
DECEMBER 10