

# City man found guilty in shooting

Jury recommends life; sentencing on Feb. 17

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A Lynchburg jury convicted a man of first-degree murder Tuesday and recommended he spend the rest of his life in prison.

As a dozen deputies — plus the sheriff — surrounded a Lynchburg circuit courtroom packed with dozens of friends and family members, no one said a word as the verdict was read.

The silence was in stark contrast to the first day of trial Monday, when a brief fight erupted outside the courthouse between opposing sides.

A jury of seven men and five women took an hour to find Emmitt Harsley III, 30, guilty of fatally shooting Clyde Hilliard, 30, at the James Crossing Apartments on Aug. 31, 2004.

The jury spent about the same amount of time to recommend life in prison. Jurors also convicted Harsley of using a firearm during the murder and recommended he serve the mandatory five years in prison.

"My soul felt broken. My heart ached so badly from the pain of not having him in my life," Hilliard's sister Tywanda Jefferson said tearfully in court as she read from a prepared statement.

"Clyde was a loving, caring person who was willing to help you in any way that he could. He had a smile and a joke that could brighten your day.

"We do not have his touch or his voice anymore. All we have is memories. That



**Harsley**



**Hilliard**