



# Department of Justice

*United States Attorney Duane A. Evans*

**Eastern District of Louisiana**

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## **BLAIR TAYLOR SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR THE MURDER OF TWO PEOPLE**

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA** – On October 3, 2024, **BLAIR TAYLOR** (“**TAYLOR**”), a New Orleans resident, was sentenced after being found guilty by a federal jury of two-counts of causing a death through the use of a firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(j)(1), announced U.S. Attorney Duane A. Evans.

According to the trial evidence, **TAYLOR** killed two individuals on August 10, 2014, in what was called the “Burgundy Massacre.” One of the homicide victims killed by **TAYLOR** was a sixteen-year-old girl. Five other people were shot and seriously injured, including a 2-year-old child and a 4-year-old child. **TAYLOR** and two other individuals went to Burgundy Street in New Orleans to retaliate against a narcotics dealer who had stolen drugs from the mother of one of **TAYLOR**’s co-conspirators. When they arrived, **TAYLOR**, who possessed a rifle, opened fire on the crowd, despite several young children being outside. One of his accomplices approached the intended target and shot and killed him.

On February 2, 2017, **TAYLOR** and his accomplice were found guilty of two counts of second-degree murder and five counts of attempted second-degree murder after the jury returned an 11-1 verdict of guilty on all counts. However, in 2021 they were granted new trials after the United States Supreme Court found ruled non-unanimous jury verdicts unconstitutional. In October of 2022 the State of Louisiana retried **TAYLOR** and he was found not guilty. He was subsequently released from jail in March 2023.

Following that not guilty verdict, a federal grand jury conducted an investigation and indicted **TAYLOR**, for the two murders.

After a three (3) day trial, the jury found **TAYLOR** guilty of causing the death of both victims through the use of a firearm. As to each count of murder, **TAYLOR** was sentenced to life imprisonment.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence, and to make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. On May 26, 2021, the Department launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities, supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place, setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities, and measuring the results.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New Orleans Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Inga Petrovich, Unit Chief Elizabeth Privitera and Special Assistant United States Attorney James Ollinger, all from the Violent Crime Unit, are in charge of the prosecution.

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