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PRESS RELEASE

STATE v. DENNIS PARRISH

On August 1, 2022 a Cumberland County Jury returned guilty verdicts against Defendant Dennis Parrish, age 57 of Vineland, on six counts charged. Specifically, the Defendant was found guilty of first degree murder, two separate counts of second degree desecration of human remains – desecrating, damaging or destroying human remains and disturbing, moving or concealing human remains – third degree hindering, fourth degree obstruction and fourth degree tampering with evidence.

On October 7, 2022 Defendant Dennis Parrish was sentenced as follows: murder in the first degree, a term of life with a period of parole ineligibility of 63 years, 9 months and three days; desecration in the second degree by setting fire to human remains, a term of 10 years, consecutive to the life term for murder; desecration of human remains in the second degree by dismemberment, a term of 10 years, concurrent. Defendant's convictions for hindering in the third degree, obstruction in the fourth degree and tampering with evidence in the fourth degree were merged for the purpose of sentencing.

Evidence was presented at trial to show that the Defendant inflicted blunt force trauma upon the victim Tonya Cook, that Defendant dismembered the victim in his Vineland home and then drove the remains to a farm field in Cedarville, Lawrence Township, where he set the human remains on fire.

The prosecution was represented at trial by Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office Trial Chief Lesley Snock and First Assistant Prosecutor Harold B. Shapiro. Defendant Dennis Parrish was represented by Alexander Varghese, Esquire and Nathan R. Perry, Esquire.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**If this press release involves the charging, accusation or indictment of a criminal defendant, same is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.*