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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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**Commonwealth v. Ronnie Lesha Anderson
Convicted Sex Offender Sentenced to 30 Years for New Violent Sexual Assault Case**

Virginia Beach, Va. – Colin D. Stolle, Commonwealth's Attorney for the city of Virginia Beach, announced that Ronnie Anderson, age 27, formerly of the 5800 block of Northampton Boulevard in Virginia Beach, Virginia, was sentenced today by Circuit Court Judge A. Bonwill Shockley for charges of Forcible Sodomy, Object Sexual Penetration, Robbery, Abduction w/ the Intent to Gain Pecuniary Benefit, Abduction, and Conspiracy. Judge Shockley sentenced Anderson to sixty (60) years in prison with thirty (30) years suspended, leaving thirty (30) years to serve.

Anderson pled guilty on November 19, 2019. Had this matter gone to trial, the Commonwealth's evidence would have proven that shortly after midnight on February 21, 2016, a woman returned to her hotel room at the Wingate Inn in Virginia Beach. Anderson approached her before she exited her vehicle and asked her for a cigarette and lighter. As she attempted to exit her car, he brandished a knife and stated, "We're gonna get something from you." His juvenile co-defendant, William Coston, approached the passenger side, opened the door, and emptied her purse.

Anderson forced her into the backseat. Both Anderson and Coston sexually assaulted her. Each time she attempted to escape, she was forced back inside. At various times, both defendants had knives displayed and threatened to hurt or kill her. Anderson punched the victim in the face and back and kned her in the stomach. She sustained a cut on her leg. As she repeatedly begged them to stop, she said she would give them money. They made her drive to a nearby 7-Eleven. Once inside, she took increments of \$100 out of the ATM machine as Coston stood by and Anderson remained in her car.

Coston apologized and told her Anderson made him do it. He also said that they were only supposed to rob her and it wasn't supposed to go that far. After handing Coston the money, she ran towards the employee office for help. She shut the door and called the police. Anderson and