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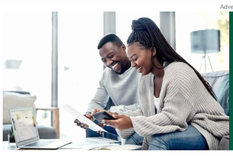

NEWS

Bond reduced for Augusta man accused in 2017 homicide

Sandy Hodson Augusta Chronicle

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Bond was reduced Monday for an Augusta man who has been in jail awaiting trial since November 2017.

Laron Mickens, 37, has pleaded not guilty in Richmond County Superior Court to charges of murder and weapon violations in the Nov. 5, 2017, fatal shooting of 25-year-old Fredrick Booker.

Mickens' case went to trial in February 2019, but the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict and a mistrial was declared.

On Monday, defense attorney Keith Johnson asked Judge John Flythe to consider reducing Mickens' bond and set a bond under the new supervised bond system.

Mickens was granted a $100,000 bond in 2017, but his family is unable to post that much, Johnson said. Mickens is a high school graduate and father of two.

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Assistant District Attorney Thomas Watkins opposed the bond-reduction request. Booker was shot five times outside his own apartment building for reasons that aren't clear, Watkins said.

Johnson said Mickens has a self-defense defense.

Flythe said since another judge determined Mickens qualified for bond, he preferred Mickens has bond with supervision. He reduced the bond to $60,000. Mickens will be under electronic monitoring and on house arrest. He is not allowed to consume any drugs or alcohol and will be subject to testing, Flythe ordered.

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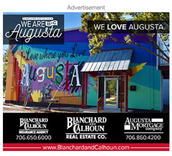

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