

For Immediate Release

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Griffin Man Convicted of Trafficking Methamphetamine

April 3, 2023 – Ringgold, GA – On Thursday, March 30, 2023, Jonathan Harold Brown, a 42 year old man from Griffin, Georgia, was convicted by a Catoosa County jury on charges of Trafficking Methamphetamine, Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, and two counts of felony Fleeing and Attempting to Elude a Police Officer.

The evidence, presented over the course of a two day trial, showed that on the evening of July 21, 2021, Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force Agent Allen Ellenburg was driving on Hwy. 27 in Rossville along with DTF Agent Ryan Matthews and DTF Commander Caine Railey. While stopped at a red light on Hwy. 27, Agent Ellenburg noticed Jonathan Harold Brown pull his vehicle alongside Agent Ellenburg. Agent Ellenburg recognized Brown immediately as an individual with an active parole warrant. Brown slumped down in his seat upon noticing Agent Ellenburg and slowed his vehicle down significantly in an attempt to cause Agent Ellenburg to pass him once the stop light turned green.

Agent Ellenburg activated his blue lights and sirens to conduct a traffic stop and arrest Brown on his parole warrant. Brown refused to stop his vehicle and accelerated to speeds in excess of 100 mph. DTF agents gave chase and followed Brown into Catoosa County, where he threw a backpack from his vehicle into a ditch at the intersection of Redbud Avenue and Farmland Drive. Agents continued the pursuit, during which Brown was speeding, running cars off the road, and driving on the wrong side of the road. The pursuit entered into Hamilton County, Tennessee, where Brown wrecked his vehicle and was apprehended. During the trial, Agent Ellenburg described the high-speed chase as the longest pursuit he had ever engaged in during his law enforcement career.

The backpack thrown by Brown was recovered shortly thereafter by officers with the Ft. Oglethorpe Police Department and was found to contain multiple gallon sized bags of methamphetamine, sets of digital scales, and drug paraphernalia. A firearm and other illegal narcotics were found lying in the ditch nearby. The largest bag of methamphetamine weighed nearly 2 pounds and had a street value of approximately \$7,500. Brown also had over \$3,000 in cash on his person when he was arrested.

Brown is a six-time convicted felon who has prior convictions that include Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Riot in a Penal Institution, and Manufacturing Methamphetamine, as well as various other drug convictions.

Testimony against Brown was given by Agent Ellenburg, Agent Matthews, Commander Railey, Ft. Oglethorpe Police Officers Shelby Lewis and Lt. Greg Cross, and Evidence Technician Marc Veazey. After a guilty verdict was returned, Judge Brian House sentenced Brown to serve 40 years in the Georgia Department of Corrections without the possibility of parole.

The State of Georgia was represented by Assistant District Attorney Deanna Reisman. Trial assistance was provided by Administrative Assistant Leann Black and witness coordination staff members. Drug

Task Force Agent Allen Ellenburg provided invaluable assistance throughout the investigation and prosecution of Brown.

District Attorney Fuller stated “Methamphetamine has devastated our small-town communities and destroyed lives. Combating this opioid and meth epidemics will be a key priority to my administration. Together with law enforcement, we are going to punch back twice as hard at the cartels and drug traffickers and ensure they get lengthy prison sentences.”

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