



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DONTAE SMITH, CARBONDALE, SENTENCED TO ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR ATTEMPTED ARMED ROBBERY

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that a Carbondale resident, Dontae Smith, age 21, was sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections for Attempted Armed Robbery following a plea of guilty on April 8, 2016.

On January 31, 2016, during the annual event known as Polar Bear, Carbondale Police Officers responded to the footbridge in the northwest corner of Pinch Penny's and Level's parking lot, in regards to an armed robbery. The officers were provided a description of two African American males, one having dreadlocks and wearing dark clothes with a colorful print shirt. Officers located a suspect matching the description near the footbridge and attempted to stop him. The individual then fled on foot towards the footbridge, but was stopped by police. The suspect discarded a gun during the pursuit. The suspect was identified as the defendant, Dontae Smith.

On February 2, 2016, the Jackson County State's Attorney's Office charged Mr. Smith with Attempted Armed Robbery, a Class 1 Felony; Unlawful Use of Weapons, a Class 4 Felony; Aggravated Battery, a Class 3 Felony; Aggravated Assault, a Class A Misdemeanor; and Resisting a Peace Officer, also a Class A Misdemeanor.

The Attempted Robbery charge carries a minimum sentence of four (4) years or up to a maximum of fifteen (15) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, two (2) years of Mandatory Supervised Release, a fine of up to \$25,000, or forty-eight (48) months of probation. A court may sentence a defendant to the Illinois Impact Incarceration Program, more commonly referred to as "boot camp." This is a program within the Illinois Department of Corrections that allows eligible offenders sentenced to prison the opportunity to significantly reduce their sentence. It is referred to as boot camp because the program is run like a military style boot camp.

Mr. Smith was sentenced to five (5) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with two (2) years of Mandatory Supervised Release to follow his sentence.. The Court recommended that the defendant be placed into the Illinois Department of Corrections Impact Incarceration Program or "Boot Camp." The Impact Incarceration program is an intervention program designed to promote lawful behavior in criminal offenders through a highly structured program of discipline. If the offender cannot successfully complete the program he/she will then be required to finish out his five (5) year sentence. Those who do successfully complete the program are discharged home after approximately six (6) months

but still remain under the control of prison authorities because they will be on parole. If they violate any parole conditions, they can be returned to prison to serve the balance of the original sentence.

A second individual, Matthew Hamilton, was also charged as acting together and in concert with Mr. Smith. The case against Mr. Hamilton is still pending, and is set for trial on May 9, 2016. ***A charge is not proof of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent of any charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.***

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department. Assistant State's Attorney Patrick J. Brewster was responsible for the prosecution of the case.