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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DWIGHT WILMINGTON & BRANDEN LEWIS, ELKVILLE, SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Dwight Wilmington, 23, and Branden L. Lewis, 22, both of Elkhaville, Illinois, pled guilty to Residential Burglary and were sentenced to the Department of Corrections.

On May 20, 2015, a Dowell resident reported a burglary to her home on Union Hill Avenue. The victim reported that an unknown individual or individuals entered her home and stole a number of items including a television, clothing, and a handgun.

As officers were investigating, the Illinois State Police conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle being driven by Branden Lewis. Dwight Wilmington was a passenger in Lewis' vehicle. During the traffic stop, the State Trooper noticed the grip of a pistol extending from the waistband of Wilmington's pants. At that point, both men were taken into custody and it was ultimately confirmed that the pistol in Wilmington's possession was the one stolen from the victim.

After being interviewed, both men ultimately confessed to committing the residential burglary. Lewis indicated that he stole the television from the residence and Wilmington admitted to stealing the handgun.

A sentencing hearing was held on February 16, 2016. Evidence in aggravation and mitigation was presented at the hearing. After hearing the evidence, the Court sentenced both men to four (4) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Both men will have to serve a two (2) year period of Mandatory Supervised Release upon their release from prison. Further, the Court recommended that both men participate in the Impact Incarceration Program within the Department of Corrections.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police. Assistant State's Attorney Casey Bloodworth was responsible for the prosecution of this case.