



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRAVIS J. TAYLOR, MARION, SENTENCED TO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR UNLAWFUL USE OF WEAPONS BY A FELON

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Travis J. Taylor, age 39, of Marion, Illinois, was sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections for the offense of Unlawful Use of Weapons by a Felon.

On October 19, 2017, during the early morning hours, Taylor led Murphysboro Police officers on an accelerated speed chase through Murphysboro. Taylor was found to be driving a "get away" car after a Murphysboro resident had reported that he had scared off a masked intruder attempting to enter his home just after 1:00 a.m. The masked intruder, later identified as Edward L. Wills, alighted from the passenger side and fled on foot when police cornered the vehicle at 4th and Murphy in Murphysboro. Later that morning, two handguns and a mandrill-monkey mask were found lying on the ground along the path of the vehicle's flight. The mask was suspected of being the same recognized from videos of recent robberies in the Jackson/Williamson Counties area. A clown-style mask was found in the vehicle. Taylor later admitted to investigators he had thrown one of the guns out of the window while fleeing from police. Taylor has prior felony convictions and is prohibited from possessing firearms.

On May 6, 2019, Taylor pled guilty to the charge of Unlawful Use of Weapons by a Felon, a Class 3 Felony. He was sentenced to three (3) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, followed by a one (1) year period of mandatory supervised release. Taylor is currently serving a five (5) year sentence in the Federal Bureau of Prisons for Interference with Commerce by Robbery.

The co-defendant, Edward L. Wills, pleaded guilty to Criminal Trespass to Residence last year and was sentenced to one-year prison time.

The investigation was conducted by the Murphysboro Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern

District of Illinois. Assistant State's Attorney Andrew W. Suthard was responsible for the prosecution of this case.