



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RODNEY R. BOYD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FOUND GUILTY OF UNLAWFUL USE OF WEAPONS BY A FELON AND RESISTING A PEACE OFFICER

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today, Rodney R. Boyd, age 35, of Memphis, Tennessee, was found guilty of two counts of Unlawful Use of Weapons by a Felon and one count of Resisting a Peace Officer, following a two-day jury trial in Jackson County.

On July 4, 2019, Carbondale Police Officers responded to multiple reports of two vehicles in the 1200 block of North Bridge Street in Carbondale which were each occupied by two black males with multiple guns. One caller also reported shots being fired on North Bridge Street in Carbondale. Officers later observed a vehicle matching the description provided by the callers traveling northbound on North Illinois Avenue and began pursuit. The vehicle turned onto West Willow and then onto North Bridge Street and failed to stop when officers activated their emergency lights and video camera. The vehicle eventually stopped several blocks later in the 1200 block of North Bridge Street at a residence and Rodney Boyd, a passenger in the vehicle, immediately jumped out of the vehicle and fled out of sight into the backyard as officers pursued him yelling "stop! police!" As Boyd jumped from the car, an officer observed a pistol in his waistband and alerted other officers by yelling "gun!" Boyd was chased through several backyards before he was caught. A K-9 search of the immediate area where he had been chased revealed two, fully loaded pistols. Ammunition matching one of the pistols, a .32 caliber, was also located inside the vehicle on the passenger side of the car where Boyd had been seated. Boyd, a convicted felon, admitted to officers at the time of his arrest that he possessed both guns and the ammunition. However, the audio portion of the video statement did not record the interview. A theme central to his defense at trial, and rejected by the jury, was that he had not made any admissions at all and that the guns may have been tossed in the path where he ran by others.

Unlawful Use of Weapons by a Felon is a non-probationable Class 3 Felony and carries a mandatory minimum sentence of two (2) to ten (10) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Resisting a Peace Officer is a Class A Misdemeanor.

Boyd remains in the custody of the Jackson County Sheriff pending sentencing.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department and the Illinois State Police Crime Lab. Assistant State's Attorney Andrew W. Suthard was responsible for the prosecution of this case.