



# JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

## Michael C. Carr, State's Attorney

Jackson County Courthouse • 1001 Walnut • Third Floor • Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 687-7200 • FAX (618) 687-7215

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael C. Carr, State's Attorney

Monday, October 28, 2019

### **RONALD G. McCONNELL, CARBONDALE, SENTENCED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR AGGRAVATED UNLAWFUL USE OF WEAPONS**

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today, Ronald G. McConnell, age 35, was sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections for the offense of Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapons. McConnell was found guilty on one count of Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapons, a Class 4 Felony, and Possession of less than 100 grams of Cannabis, a Class A Misdemeanor on July 31, 2019, following a two-day jury trial in Jackson County.

On December 23, 2015, officers with the Carbondale Police Department were dispatched to 611 East Park Street, Carbondale, Illinois, following a 911 report of a man with a gun. The 911 caller described what appeared to be a drug transaction occurring in a vehicle in the parking lot of his apartment complex and reported the driver was waving a handgun around while passing bags and money back and forth with the passenger.

Officers located the vehicle and occupants matching the description provided by the 911 caller. While standing by the vehicle, officers smelled cannabis emanating from the passenger compartment. Both occupants were removed from the vehicle and searched for officer safety. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Ronald McConnell. The passenger was found to possess over \$1,000 in cash and seven (7) grams of cannabis, while McConnell was found to possess \$630 in cash. Due to the 911 report that the driver had a gun, the odor of cannabis, and the cannabis in

the passenger's pocket, officers searched the vehicle. The vehicle search revealed a loaded Colt 1911, .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol and a bag containing 38 grams of cannabis under the driver's seat where McConnell had been sitting.

McConnell has prior felony drug convictions from Alabama and Tennessee and is prohibited from possessing firearms. At the time of the offense McConnell was on felony probation out of Rutherford County, Tennessee, for possession with intent to deliver over 300 grams of a Schedule II controlled substance.

On October 25, 2019, McConnell was sentenced to two (2) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapons, Class 4 Felony, to be followed by one (1) year of Mandatory Supervised Release. He received a concurrent sentence of 160 days in the Jackson County Jail for the Possession of Cannabis.

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