



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENNIS A. HIGGINS, JR., CARBONDALE, FOUND GUILTY IN CARBONDALE SHOOTING INCIDENT

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that on January 24, 2020, a Jackson County jury returned guilty verdicts on Dennis A. Higgins, Jr., age 32, of Carbondale, Illinois, for Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon, following a four-day jury trial in Jackson County.

The charges against Higgins arise from a July 16, 2019, shooting incident which occurred at The Fields apartment complex in Carbondale. Higgins was one of two men who engaged in a shootout on the property of The Fields just before midnight. Higgins and the other man shot at one another after engaging in a verbal altercation in the middle of the street. The events were captured on high-definition video surveillance cameras installed by the management of The Fields over the summer.

Higgins will remain in the custody of the Jackson County Jail without bond until his sentencing hearing.

Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon is a Class 2 felony which normally carries a potential sentence of between three (3) and seven (7) years in prison. However, because of his prior criminal history, Higgins faces a potential sentence of between six (6) and seven (7) years in prison. Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon is a Class 2 felony which normally carries a potential sentence of between three (3) and seven (7) years in prison. However, because of his prior criminal history, Higgins faces a potential sentence of between seven (7) and fourteen (14) years in prison. Higgins is not eligible to receive a sentence of probation or conditional discharge on either charge.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department. Assistant State's Attorney Jayson Clark was responsible for the prosecution.