



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BAHENI CHAMPION, CARBONDALE, SENTENCED TO ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR AGGRAVATED BATTERY OF POLICE OFFICERS

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Baheni Champion, 35, of Carbondale, Illinois, was sentenced to three (3) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for two counts of Aggravated Battery to a Police Officer, both Class 2 Felonies. The sentences will run concurrently, and will be followed by a two (2) year period of mandatory supervised release.

On September 15, 2019, Carbondale police officers were dispatched to a report of criminal damage to property, where they located the suspect, Baheni Champion, nearby. Champion was combative with the officers and spit in one officer's face. He then used his shoulder to hit another officer in the mouth. On December 20, 2019, Champion entered pleas of guilty to the two charges of Aggravated Battery to a Police Officer and remained in jail awaiting his sentencing hearing, which was delayed until on May 27, 2020, due court scheduling restrictions related to COVID-19.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department. Assistant State's Attorney Penny J. Pierson was responsible for the prosecution of this case.