



# 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

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## **DENNIS A. HIGGINS, JR., CARBONDALE, SENTENCED TO THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR INVOLVEMENT IN JULY 16, 2019, CARBONDALE SHOOTING INCIDENT**

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that on October 14, 2020, Dennis A. Higgins, Jr., age 33, of Carbondale, Illinois, was sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections for his involvement in a July 16, 2019 shooting incident in Carbondale, Illinois. Higgins received a sentence of seven (7) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the offense of Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon and a sentence of 10½ years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the offense of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon.

On January 24, 2020, a Jackson County Jury returned guilty verdicts on Higgins for the offenses of 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 arose out of 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. All of the events were captured on high-definition video surveillance cameras installed by management of The Fields over the summer.

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 faced 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. Because of his prior criminal history, Higgins faced a potential sentence of between seven (7) and fourteen (14) years in prison. Higgins was 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 successful prosecution of Higgins.