



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Springfield Man Found Guilty in Attempt to Shoot Springfield Police Officer

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Christopher Lee Jellison, 29, of Springfield, Missouri was found guilty today by a Greene County Jury of the offenses of First Degree Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer, Armed Criminal Action, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and First Degree Tampering with a Motor Vehicle. The jury deliberated for approximately five and a half hours before returning its verdict.

On May 3, 2018, Springfield Police Officers Stephen Layton and Nicholas Brassler were on patrol when they encountered Jellison in a stalled vehicle on Grand Street at its intersection with John Q. Hammons Parkway. Based on Jellison's nervous demeanor and the fact that the vehicle identification number on the car appeared to have been intentionally covered, the officers checked to see if the vehicle was stolen. Upon receiving confirmation that the plates on the vehicle were reported as stolen, the officers approached to detain Jellison on suspicion of being in possession of a stolen vehicle.

Jellison was initially physically compliant with the officers, but once they had holstered their sidearms and tried to place him in handcuffs, Jellison began to resist. During the struggle, Jellison pulled a loaded 9 mm handgun from his waistband and placed the muzzle of the handgun against the side of Officer Layton. Officer Brassler knocked the gun from Jellison's hand onto the street. The officers were eventually able to obtain physical control of Jellison when other Springfield Police Officers began to arrive on the scene, some with police dogs.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Jellison, 1831-CR03828

At the time of this incident, Jellison was a convicted felon and not able to lawfully possess a firearm. His prior convictions are for Second Degree Robbery, Stealing, Second Degree Burglary, and several Forgery counts.

The Honorable David Jones presided over the jury trial. The defendant is subject to a sentence of 10-30 years for First Degree Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer, a minimum of 3 years with no maximum on the Armed Criminal Action Count, 3-10 years for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and 3-10 years for First Degree Tampering with a Motor Vehicle. Judge Jones set a sentencing hearing for January 11, 2019 at 11:00 a.m., following a sentencing assessment report to be prepared by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Brian Smith was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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