

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Faced with Jury Trial, Acworth Man Admits to Drug Trafficking and is Sentenced to Prison
State vs. Dustin Shane Garrett

October 2, 2024 – Cherokee County District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on Monday, September 30, just before his case was to go to trial, Dustin Shane Garrett, 32, of Acworth, pled guilty to charges of trafficking methamphetamine and fleeing/attempting to elude a police officer.

Superior Court Judge Jennifer Davis accepted the negotiated guilty plea and sentenced the defendant to serve 25 years in prison and ordered him to pay a \$1 million fine. Garrett was sentenced as a recidivist offender pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(a).

Charges stem from a Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad (CMANS) investigation of suspected drug activity occurring at the Shell gas station on Highway 92 in Acworth.

On January 18, 2022, after Garrett left the gas station in a black Honda Civic, a Cherokee Sheriff's Office deputy attempted a traffic stop for failure to maintain his lane. Instead of pulling over for law enforcement, Garrett accelerated on Highway 92, weaving in and out of traffic, nearly striking multiple vehicles.

Garrett continued driving at a high rate of speed, from Old Alabama Road to Kellogg Creek Road, eventually reaching Arrington Road in Bartow County, where law enforcement lost sight of him.

"This defendant used whatever means he could to escape from law enforcement. His driving endangered everyone on the roadway that day," said Assistant District Attorney Macelyne Williams, who co-prosecuted this case on behalf of the State.

Garrett then abandoned his car on Emerald Trail and tried to escape by running into the woods. Home surveillance cameras and eyewitnesses spotted him running through yards and knocking on front doors. Multiple residents told law enforcement that the defendant offered them money in exchange for hiding him from law enforcement.

One witness told law enforcement that he saw Garrett toss a black duffle bag onto the side of a road. With that witness's assistance, CSO located the black duffle bag, as well as a blue backpack also belonging to Garrett. The bags, which were found on Jacobs Road, contained more than a kilogram of methamphetamine, in addition to a large amount of marijuana, digital scales, and baggies.

"Because of the willingness of citizens to come forward to assist law enforcement, a repeat offender was quickly apprehended, and the illicit drugs he was trafficking were seized. This case is a perfect example of how collaboration between law enforcement and citizens can positively impact our community," said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Damion Overstreet, who co-prosecuted this case on behalf of the state.

The following day, law enforcement arrested Garrett at a Sunoco gas station in Cartersville. He had in his possession \$11,162 in cash and keys to the Honda Civic.

“We were fully prepared to try this case to a jury. The defendant’s decision to enter a guilty plea while faced with the imminence of his trial illustrates the strength of the State’s case,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “Working together with our law enforcement partners, we removed a substantial amount of very dangerous drugs from our streets.”

This case was investigated by the Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad (CMANS) and the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office, with assistance from Bartow County Sheriff’s Office, Bartow County Drug Task Force, Emerson Police Department, and Georgia Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Macelyne Williams and Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Damion Overstreet, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.

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