

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fleeing Law Enforcement Leads to 10-Year Prison Sentence
State vs. Lorenzo Kodesch Johnson Jr.

January 30, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that, during a non-negotiated plea hearing on January 28, Lorenzo Kodesch Johnson Jr., 31, of Woodstock, was sentenced to serve 10 years in prison without the possibility of parole, after he pled guilty to fleeing law enforcement and other charges.

The State was prepared to present the case to a jury when Johnson decided to enter the non-negotiated guilty plea. He pled guilty to all five charges: fleeing/attempting to elude a police officer (2 counts), reckless driving, driving while license suspended, and possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

During the hearing, Assistant District Attorney William “Trey” Smith presented the facts of the case. On June 12, 2024, at 12:48 p.m., just outside of Canton, a Cherokee Sheriff’s Office deputy observed a black Honda Civic with window tint darker than the legal limit.

After the vehicle turned onto Waleska Road from Old Donaldson, the defendant began driving at a high rate of speed in heavy traffic conditions. The deputy, who was following the Honda, activated his emergency lights and siren to signal a traffic stop. Instead of pulling over, Johnson continued driving in a dangerous manner, reaching speeds of 90 miles per hour.

While CSO was in pursuit, Johnson drove on the wrong side of the road, weaved in and out of traffic, and passed more than 60 cars as he traveled from Waleska Road to Mary Lane to Hospital Road, then back onto Waleska Road to Reinhardt College Parkway, then Laurel Canyon Parkway, where he was apprehended.

Johnson told CSO deputies that he fled because he had some marijuana in his possession in addition to warrants for his arrest.

“This defendant chose to endanger countless lives the day he engaged in a high-speed chase instead of pulling over for law enforcement. He chose to run instead of obeying the law,” said Assistant District Attorney William “Trey” Smith, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State. “Cherokee Sheriff’s Office handled the pursuit in a safe manner and assured that this defendant was quickly apprehended.”

The State requested a sentence of 10 years, with all 10 years to serve in prison under the recidivist statute. The Defense argued for a sentence of 10 years with one year to serve.

Superior Court Judge Tony Baker sentenced the defendant to serve 10 years in confinement under the recidivist statute. As a recidivist offender pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7 (a) and (c), Johnson will be required to serve his entire prison sentence without parole eligibility.

“The actions of this defendant were extremely dangerous. He could easily have killed a fellow motorist or a pedestrian the day he chose to disregard the deputy’s emergency lights and siren and put the safety of so many at

risk,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “We are thankful that no one was hurt and that this recidivist offender is receiving just punishment for his actions.”

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office with assistance from Canton Police. It was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney William “Trey” Smith, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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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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