

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Cobb Sheriff's Office Chief of Staff Found Guilty of Making False Statements to Police
State vs. Braxton Tyree Cotton

February 28, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on Friday, Feb. 28, a Cobb County jury found Braxton Tyree Cotton, 44, of Mableton, guilty of making a false statement and representation (2 counts) and falsifying and concealing a material fact.

At the time of his arrest, Cotton was a major and chief of staff for the Cobb County Sheriff's Office.

"Occasionally there are circumstances which require the investigating agency, assigned judge or prosecutor to recuse themselves from participation in a case. On July 12, 2023, the Cobb County District Attorney's Office requested a substitute prosecutor for Mr. Cotton's case, and my office has led the prosecution in Cobb County Superior Court since that time," said Cherokee County District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway, of the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit. "This decision was made to ensure fairness and impartiality in the proceedings."

Charges stem from a Cobb County Police Department investigation that began when Cotton reported a hit-and-run involving an unidentified driver who rear-ended his white Chevrolet Corvette.

Cotton first told a Cobb County Police officer that the crash occurred on March 4, 2023, at approximately 8:45 p.m. on Macland and Lost Mountain roads. However, while investigating the incident, the police officer noticed inconsistencies and asked Cotton for clarification. Cotton then stated that the crash occurred early in the morning of March 5 and that the other driver did not have insurance at the time of the collision. He also admitted that the other driver was known to him.

A review of Flock cameras and surveillance video determined that Cotton's car was hit sometime between 12:18 and 1:16 a.m. on March 5. A detective later identified the other driver, who was a woman with whom Cotton had a relationship. Cotton was arrested on April 28, 2024.

During the trial, which took place Feb. 24-27, the State presented 79 exhibits and called four witnesses to testify, including the Cobb County Police officer who took the initial report, the detective who investigated the incident, and an insurance investigator. The woman who rear-ended Cotton's car also testified, admitting that she crashed into the Corvette and left the scene.

One witness, Cobb County Sheriff Craig D. Owens Sr., testified on behalf of the defendant.

The jury began deliberations at 9 a.m. on Feb. 28. The verdict was delivered just before 1 p.m. Following the verdict, Superior Court Judge Angela Z. Brown sentenced Cotton as a first offender, ordering a five-year sentence, with the first six months to serve in confinement and the remainder to serve on probation.

Cotton was also charged with criminal attempt to commit insurance fraud, criminal attempt to commit a felony, and violation of oath by public officer (2 counts), but was acquitted by the jury on those counts in the indictment.

“Evidence presented at trial clearly showed that this man attempted to manipulate other law enforcement officers by fabricating facts surrounding a rear-end collision, all for his own benefit,” said Chief Assistant District Attorney Katie Gropper, of the Cherokee County District Attorney’s Office, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “Such behavior cannot be tolerated, as it undermines the public’s confidence in the integrity of law enforcement.”

In addition to previously serving as chief of staff for the Cobb Sheriff’s Office, Cotton has held several senior positions for the State of Georgia, including director of reentry services for the Georgia Board of Pardons & Paroles and executive director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Earlier in his career, he was a state trooper and police officer for other law enforcement agencies.

This case was investigated by the Cobb County Police Department and prosecuted by Chief Assistant District Attorney Katie Gropper and Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Geoffrey Fogus, 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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