



J. HANLEY
WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
January 9, 2026
State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that on January 9, 2026, **Malik H. Trotter (DOB: 11/14/95)** was found guilty following a bench trial before Judge Jennifer Clifford for the January 28, 2024 killing of Rockford Police K9 Officer Nyx. Trotter was also found guilty of Attempted First Degree Murder of a Police Officer, Armed Violence, Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm, and Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon for shooting at a Rockford police officer after killing K9 Officer Nyx.

On January 28, 2024, Rockford police were investigating a report of shots fired involving the defendant. Later that day, a Rockford police officer and K9 Officer Nyx located Trotter walking in the 2900 block of 11th Street. After a brief foot chase, K9 Nyx apprehended the defendant. During the encounter, Trotter shot and killed K9 Nyx in an effort to escape.

As Trotter fled the scene, he fired five shots at the pursuing Rockford police officer before being incapacitated by a gunshot wound to the leg. A subsequent investigation revealed that Trotter had absconded from federal parole in Iowa and was in possession of two handguns and a controlled substance.

Attempted First Degree Murder of a Police Officer with a firearm is an enhanced Class X felony punishable by a mandatory sentence of between 40 and 100 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, to be served at 85 percent. Killing a Police Canine is a Class 3 felony punishable by probation or a term of imprisonment ranging from two to five years. That conviction, along with the remaining felony convictions, will be served concurrently with the Attempted First Degree Murder conviction.

The case is set for status on February 11th at 8:30 in Courtroom C of the Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center.

The Rockford Police Department, Illinois State Police, and the Winnebago-Boone County Integrity Task Force conducted the investigation. Assistant State's Attorneys Ken LaRue and John Finley prosecuted the case.

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