



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
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State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that Meovonte L. Cooper (DOB: 7/27/2002) was found guilty of Attempt First Degree Murder and Aggravated Battery with a Firearm after a jury trial before the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer. The jury also found that the firearm enhancement allegation was proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

On August 24, 2024, Winnebago County Sheriff's Deputies were on patrol in the area of 8600 North Second Street in Machesney Park when they heard multiple rounds of gunshots being fired. Deputies observed the defendant, Meovonte Cooper, driving a vehicle away from the area. During a traffic stop, Deputies observed there was a firearm inside the vehicle, but the magazine, was empty of ammunition. At the same time, Winnebago County 911 received a report of a shooting victim in the 1000 block of Minns Drive. Upon arrival, deputies located an adult male, suffering from a gunshot wound to the back. He was transported to the hospital to be treated. During the follow-up investigation, deputies determined Cooper shot the victim as he was sleeping on the couch. Cooper drove his vehicle on to the lawn, climbed on top of the vehicle's roof and up to the second floor balcony, to shoot the victim through the window. The incident was caught on security camera video.

Attempt First Degree Murder is a Class X Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 6-30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years of Mandatory Supervised Release. Cooper is eligible for an additional, mandatory 20 year sentence since the firearm enhancement allegation was proven. He must serve 85% of his sentence, pursuant to statute.

Aggravated Battery is a Class X Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 6-30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years of Mandatory Supervised Release.

Cooper is scheduled to be back in court on May 16, 2025, in front of Judge Schafer in Courtroom 317 of the Winnebago County Courthouse for sentencing.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Emily Palmer and Andrew Marcum are handling the prosecution.

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