



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
October 3, 2024
State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **Austen J. Fowler (DOB: 9/30/1993)** was found guilty of Attempt First Degree Murder after a jury trial in front of the Honorable Judge John Gibbons.

On May 2, 2023, Rockford Police Officers responded to a hospital after staff reported a walk-in gunshot victim. Upon arrival, officers met with an adult male victim, who had wounds to his arm and face. The victim told police that the shooting happened at his residence in the 3000 block of 7th Street. Officers learned that two males armed with guns and wearing masks approached the victim's vehicle, making demands. The victim put his car in drive, and the males began shooting at him. Detectives conducted a follow up investigation and developed the defendant, Austen Fowler, as one of the suspects. Fowler was arrested in June of 2023 after detectives conducted a search of his residence. Detectives found Air Jordans that matched those worn by one of the suspects on surveillance video the day of the shooting. Witness testimony during the trial—together with various other pieces of evidence such as pre-shooting surveillance footage and call detail records—corroborated Fowler's involvement in the shooting.

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. Due to a firearm being used, the offense is punishable by an additional 20 years in the Department of Corrections to be served at 85% and followed by three years of Mandatory Supervised Release.

Fowler is scheduled to be back in court on October 8, 2024, for a status on posttrial pleadings in front of the Honorable Judge Gibbons in Courtroom A of the Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Joseph Carder and Kirstin Krivanec are handling the prosecution.

CONTACT PERSON:

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