



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**August 18, 2025**  
**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that the Honorable Judge Brendan Maher sentenced **Nazeaire T. Henderson (DOB: 5/3/2005)** to 12 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for one count of Unlawful Use of a Weapon with a machine gun conversion device (MCD) (also referred to as a "switch" or "auto sear") and 10 years on each of two counts of Unlawful Use of Weapon by a Street Gang Member. He plead guilty to the offenses in front of Judge Maher in court this afternoon. Henderson will also be on mandatory supervised release for 18 months after he is released from prison. The sentences will be served concurrently and at 50%.

A machine gun conversion device (MCD) is an illegal after-market device that converts a semi-automatic firearm into a fully functioning machinegun. A firearm equipped with a machinegun conversion device is extremely dangerous, even for experienced firearms users, because it is difficult to control and is capable of firing 50 rounds in four seconds with a single pull of the trigger. For more information about the devices, see <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwi/media/1380026/dl?inline>

On February 3, 2024 Rockford Police officers responded to the 1100 block of Irving Avenue after reports of a shooting. Upon arrival officers met with the homeowners, who did not see the shooting, but heard the shots and saw glass and drywall debris hit the floor. Officers observed that the residence had been struck by gunfire 17 times. One of the neighbors took video of the suspects as they ran from the area.

On February 18, 2024, Rockford Police responded to the same residence on Irving Avenue for a shot spotter alert for 10 rounds fired. Officers located eight new bullet strikes to the residence. Officers observed security footage from a neighbor which showed gunfire coming from a silver Jeep Cherokee. Detectives distributed information to local law enforcement about this Jeep being involved in the shooting. On February 19, 2024, Rockford Police and Sheriff's Deputies located the silver Jeep involved in this investigation. The vehicle pulled into the Rockton Tobacco Shop at 3015 N. Rockton Ave. and officers deployed a stop stick on the



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vehicle. The vehicle attempted to flee, but the tires were disabled. Four individuals, including Henderson exited the vehicle and ran from the scene. Several firearms were located in the Jeep during a subsequent search. Henderson was arrested a few days later and admitted to being inside the Jeep during an interview with Sheriff's Detectives. Deputies were aware through investigation that the Henderson is a member of the On the North street gang. The defendant did not have a Firearm Owners Identification Card nor was he eligible for one.

The Rockford Police Department and Winnebago County Sheriff's Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Alison Meason handled the prosecution.

### **CONTACT PERSON:**

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