



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 **Azarius N. Curtis (DOB: 4/14/2005)** was sentenced to six years in the Illinois Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to one count of Unlawful Possession of a Machine Gun by a Felon and three counts of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon before the Honorable Judge Scott Paccagnini. Curtis will also be on mandatory supervised release for 18 months after he is released from prison.

On August 23, 2025, Rockford Police Scope officers were on patrol and executed a traffic stop on a silver Chevy Malibu. The driver, sole occupant, and registered owner, Azarius Curtis, immediately exited the driver seat and shut the door. Curtis then attempted to push past officers and run. Officers were able to take Curtis into custody. During a subsequent search of the vehicle, officers recovered an open backpack in the backseat which contained four firearms. Those firearms were an assault-style rifle without a serial number, a 9mm pistol without a serial number, commonly known as a "Privately Made Firearm" or "Ghost Gun", a .45-caliber pistol, and a Glock pistol equipped with a machinegun conversion device, also referred to as a "switch" or "auto sear". The assault-style rifle, 9-millimeter pistol, and Glock pistol were all equipped with high-capacity ammunition magazines.

A machine gun conversion device (MCD) is an illegal aftermarket device which 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. The device causes the firearm to be difficult to control, and is capable of firing 50 rounds in four seconds with a single pull of the trigger. "Ghost guns" are illegal firearms not marked with a serial number which pose an extraordinary threat to public safety. For more information about machinegun conversion devices and "Ghost guns", see <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwi/media/1380026/dl?inline>.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Andrew Marcum handled the prosecution.

CONTACT PERSON:

J. Hanley, Winnebago County State's Attorney
815-319-4700