



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 the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer sentenced **Damarius L. Nelson (DOB: 10/30/1994)** to 14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for Attempt First Degree Murder. Nelson will also be on Mandatory Supervised Release for three years after he is released from prison. The defendant plead guilty to the offense in October.

On May 12, 2022, Rockford Police Officers responded to the 900 block of School Street after reports of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers located multiple shell casings in the parking lot, and a vehicle that had been struck by gunfire. A short time later, officers learned that there was a walk-in shooting victim at a Rockford Hospital. Officers met with the victim, who originally identified himself as Tyvonne Nelson. Detectives later arrived and were able to identify this shooting victim as actually being the defendant, Damarius Nelson. Officers observed that Nelson had been shot in the right upper leg. Detectives spoke with him regarding the incident. Nelson told detectives that he was walking somewhere on 15th when he was robbed and someone shot him. Detectives were able to collect surveillance video showing the shooting incident. The defendant, Damarius Nelson, was identified as a suspect. Detectives observed him getting out of a dark colored SUV, approaching a tan colored SUV and pulling a handgun from his waistband. The video shows Nelson firing several times in the direction of the three people and a tan SUV, before getting back in the dark colored one and fleeing. At least one victim had a firearm and returned fire in the defendant's direction hitting him in the upper leg area.

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. By statute the defendant must serve at least 85% of his sentence.

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

CONTACT PERSON:

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