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MAN SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS FOR POLICE CHASE AND CRASH INTO K9 UNIT

Charleston, S.C.-- Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Charleston County jury found Willis Terrel Ivey, of Huger, guilty of Assault & Battery of a High & Aggravated Nature and Failure to Stop for Blue Lights. After two days of trial, the returned the guilty verdicts Wednesday afternoon. Ivey has a lengthy criminal history. The Honorable Heath Taylor sentenced Ivey to 18 years in prison. Solicitor Wilson stated, “We applaud Judge Taylor’s stiff sentence which recognized the gravity of this offense and this Defendant’s criminal history.”

Around 8PM on Thursday, June 14, 2018, members of United States Marshals Service (USMS) Fugitive Task Force, North Charleston Police Department (NCPD), Charleston County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO), and Charleston Police Department (CPD) received information that Ivey, who had outstanding warrants with NCPD. When they learned where Ivey was located, law enforcement converged on his location, with four law enforcement vehicles attempting to box him in on all sides.

Ivey was able to escape and flee down Rivers Avenue into oncoming traffic and reaching speeds of up to 100MPH. Ivey continued fleeing into oncoming traffic for nearly a mile, before cutting back towards I-526. As Ivey sped through the intersection towards I-526, he collided with a marked NCPD K9 Tahoe, striking the unit in the driver’s side door, causing it to flip multiple times while careening down the road. Ivey’s vehicle was disabled as a result of the violent crash, and he fled on foot. Law enforcement pursued him and was able to detain him after a brief struggle. Fortunately, the driver of the K9 unit, now-Trooper Wilson Bishop, and his partner, K9 Nero, survived the crash.

Managing Assistant Solicitor Daniel W. Cooper and Assistant Solicitor Jewell Gearding prosecuted the case for the State. Cooper said “We appreciate the jury’s quick verdict and the Judge’s strong sentence, as it sends a clear message: reckless and dangerous conduct like Ivey’s – where law enforcement and civilians alike were put in harm’s way—will not be tolerated. Luckily, Trooper Bishop and K9 Nero were ultimately okay after the crash, but the end result could have been much more tragic.” Investigator Jenni Butler (Ninth Circuit Solicitor’s Office), Deputy United States Marshal Robert Roe, and Trooper Wilson Bishop assisted in the prosecution of this case and were instrumental in securing the convictions and strong sentence.

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