

# State of South Carolina

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**SCARLETT A. WILSON**  
Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

## **REPEAT OFFENDER SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS FOR TRAFFICKING COCAINE, CRACK ALONG WITH DISTRIBUTION OF FENTANYL**

For Immediate Release  
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*Charleston, SC* – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Charleston County jury found Antiwayne Jabar Rouse, of Charleston, guilty of Trafficking Cocaine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense, Trafficking Crack Cocaine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense, Possession with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl, 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense, Failure to Stop for a Blue Light, 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense and Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime. After two days of trial, the jury returned the guilty verdicts Wednesday afternoon. Rouse had previously been convicted of twelve drug offenses, as well as Assaulting a Police Officer while Resisting Arrest in 2010 and Unlawful Carrying of a Pistol in 2020. The Honorable Benjamin H. Culbertson sentenced Rouse to 25 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine, the mandatory sentence. Solicitor Wilson stated, “This situation could have had a more devastating end. We are lucky no one was killed.”

Around 11PM on Monday, January 23, 2023, Officers with the North Charleston Police Department attempted to conduct a traffic stop on Rouse while he was driving on International Boulevard in the City of North Charleston. When Officer Jordan Williamson activated his blue lights and sirens, Rouse increased his speed, ran a red light, and fled. The vehicle pursuit ended when Rouse lost control on the I26-E on ramp, disabled his vehicle, and fled on foot. Rouse then led officers on a brief foot pursuit into the median between the I26-E on ramp and I26. To assist in his capture officers deployed NCPD K9 Elf who was able to successfully track and apprehend Rouse.

After his apprehension, NCPD officers traced Rouse’s flight path and located trafficking amounts of cocaine and crack cocaine as well as a distribution amount of fentanyl. The narcotics were packaged together in a bag which was recovered only feet from where Rouse was taken into custody. Officers also located \$4,385 in cash and a digital scale typically used to weigh narcotics on Rouse. A firearm was recovered from the driver’s side floorboard of Rouse’s vehicle.

Assistant Solicitors R. Hunt Russell and Cassity Brewer prosecuted the case for the State. Russell said, “We appreciate the jury’s quick verdict which sends a clear message: trafficking dangerous narcotics and reckless conduct like Rouse’s will not be tolerated.” Investigator Jennifer Butler (Ninth Circuit Solicitor’s Office), NCPD K9 Officer Jordan Williamson, Cpl. Joseph Magrane and Officer Sean Jellico assisted in the prosecution of this case and were instrumental in securing the convictions and strong sentence.

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