

U.S. Department of Justice



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DETROIT MAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON ON CARJACKING AND OTHER RELATED OFFENSES

Deandre James, 25, of Detroit, Michigan was sentenced today to 30 years in federal prison as a result of having been found guilty by a federal jury in Detroit, Michigan on charges of carjacking and other related offenses United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced.

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by Giovanni Tiano, Special Agent in Charge, Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, Detroit Field Office.

The sentenced was imposed by United States District Judge Bernard A. Friedman.

The evidence presented during the August 2009 trial established that on April 7, 2009, James stole a car at gunpoint from a couple in Detroit. The carjacking led to a cross-border pursuit, after James drove the stolen vehicle onto the Ambassador Bridge. Once on the Ambassador Bridge, James avoided inspection and drove against traffic, nearly striking a federal officer as well as other vehicles that were driving inbound from Canada. The federal officer who was nearly run down fired his weapon at James, but James was ultimately able to flee into Canada. Windsor Police ultimately apprehended James approximately 20 minutes after he fled into Windsor. Two days after the incident, a citizen reported that she had found a gun near the location where James was apprehended, which turned out to be the gun that was used in the carjacking and was discarded by James before he was spotted by Windsor Police.

U.S. Attorney Berg stated, "Carjacking is a violent crime that endangers the lives of innocent people. In this case, the crime not only put the lives of citizens at risk, but also threatened the safety of the officers patrolling our border." Berg commended the U.S. and Canadian law enforcement agencies that were involved in arresting James and investigating this case, including the Department of Homeland Security (Office of Inspector General), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Canada Border Services Agency, and the Windsor Police Department.

Special Agent Tiano stated, "My office is pleased by the conviction and sentence in this case. Customs and Border Protection Officers place their lives on the line everyday to protect the American public, and this conviction should serve as a reminder for all their sacrifices. All DHS employees, as well as the American public deserve an Inspector General that will relentlessly pursue the criminals who selfishly place their safety in jeopardy."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeanine Jones and Louis Gabel. The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, the Detroit Police Department, the Canadian Border Service Agency and the Windsor Police Service.