

PRESS RELEASE

June 16, 2017

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MAN SENTENCED TO 71 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR MARIJUANA SALE THAT TURNED INTO A ROBBERY

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announced that on June 16, 2017, Carver County District Court Judge Michael Wentzell sentenced Max Carl Werlich, age 22, to a prison term of 71 months for robbing two men during a marijuana sale on April 30, 2016, in Waconia.

During the transaction, Werlich pointed a handgun at the presumptive seller and demanded money. After taking cash from the man, Werlich led him at gunpoint to the man's vehicle, where another 18 year-old man was asleep. Werlich forced them to drive him to a convenience store in Waconia. There, he had one of the men withdraw cash from an ATM. Werlich took the money and then made the men drive him away from the convenience store. Werlich took one of the men's cellphones and made the men promise not to call the police. Werlich then had the men drop him off at a residence in Waconia. The men called 911 the next day and reported the robbery.

The Carver County Sheriff's Office investigated and confirmed many of the facts through cellphone forensics. Investigators also located the handgun Werlich used and determined that it was a pellet gun but that it closely resembled a genuine 9 mm semiautomatic pistol.

At the sentencing hearing on June 16, 2017, First Assistant Carver County Attorney Dave Hunt described how this criminal behavior put not only the safety of the victims at risk but potentially all citizens. Hunt also recognized the Carver County Sheriff's Office for its prompt work and thorough investigation of the case.

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