



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Mark Metz (952) 361-1400

Carver County Violent Offender is Sentenced to 31 Years in Prison.

Following seven Carver County jury trials in 2022 and 2023, Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announced that on February 22, 2024, District Court Judge Christian Wilton sentenced Travis Clay Andersen, age 35, of Chaska, to a prison term of 224.4 months. This prison term was in addition to a prior term of 151.8 months, resulting in a 376.2 month (31.35 years) prison sentence for Andersen's chronic criminal behavior. Andersen's numerous felony convictions include harassment, escape from custody, false imprisonment, multiple assaults on law enforcement officers and threats directed at law enforcement officers.

Mr. Andersen is a career offender with an extensive criminal history. One of these guilty verdicts pertained to the felony harassment of a Carver County prosecutor. A special assistant Washington County prosecutor was appointed to handle this case on a conflict basis. After a week-long jury trial, Andersen was found guilty by the jury and was initially sentenced to 120 months in prison. Then, while in custody on this harassment charge, Andersen threatened the lives of two Carver County Jail Detention Deputies in April and May of 2022. Andersen was subsequently convicted by two separate juries, in March of 2023, each case involving felony Threats of Violence. Following guilty verdicts, Andersen was sentenced to an additional 28.8 months in prison.

Next, before jury selection began on these Threats of Violence cases, Andersen was held in direct contempt of district court after he repeatedly used angry, profane language before the judge and refused to comply. Andersen was then ordered to serve an additional 90 days in custody. While in a holding cell just outside the courtroom following this finding of contempt, Andersen slammed the door on the Deputy's foot and forced the Deputy into the cell, confining the Deputy. Andersen then managed to escape through the courtroom out into the employee parking lot.

While in the parking lot of the Carver County Government Center, Andersen entered and attempted to drive away in a Carver County employee's private vehicle. Andersen's attempt at stealing the vehicle was thwarted with the quick actions of the car's owner, a Carver County employee. After this unsuccessful attempt to steal the car, Andersen was confronted by a Carver County Sheriff's Office Deputy. Andersen struck this Deputy in the face causing an injury. Andersen then attempted to flee the parking

lot on foot but was tackled to the pavement by an off-duty Carver County Detention Deputy.

Because of the quick reaction and response by Carver County Sheriff's Office, Andersen was swiftly brought back into custody without being able to advance past the Carver County Government Center parking lot. Andersen was charged with felony counts of Escape from Custody, False Imprisonment, Theft of a Motor Vehicle, and Fourth Degree Assault on a Peace Officer.

In the fourteen days following his escape attempt, Andersen continued his violent and assaultive conduct by threatening the lives of a Carver County Sheriff's Office Detective and Carver County Jail Sergeant. Andersen then spit in the face of two Carver County Sheriff's Deputies who were performing courtroom security at the time. Andersen was charged with additional numerous felony counts of Threats of Violence and Fourth Degree Assault on a Peace Officer. A Carver County jury delivered guilty verdicts on these charges in the latter part of 2023.

In 2022 and 2023, the Carver County Attorney's Office tried six separate jury trials. The Washington County Attorney's Office tried one jury trial against Andersen regarding his harassment of a Carver County Prosecutor to avoid any conflict of interest. Eighty-four Carver County jurors listened carefully to the evidence and rendered guilty verdicts of all charged counts in every one of these seven trials that led to the cumulative prison sentence of 376.2 months (31.35 years).

In addition to obtaining convictions and sentencing that best serves the community safety interests, County Attorney Metz also recognized the diligence, perseverance, and professionalism of the Carver County Sheriff's Office. Most of the people harmed or assaulted by Andersen's violent conduct were employees of Carver County Sheriff's Office, either deputies or jail detention staff. Every day, these members of the law enforcement community put themselves in harm's way while serving the needs of public safety. These public servants should never have their lives threatened or be subject to violent assaults.

Because of Mr. Andersen's repeated violent conduct as a career offender, the Carver County Attorney's Office pursued every charge to its legal and just conclusion. Mr. Anderson is fully accountable for his violent acts and this significant sentence helps protect all citizens from future harm.

Mr. Metz recognizes the tremendous effort that went into these difficult cases, including the superlative diligence, fortitude, and advocacy skills of both Assistant Carver County Attorney Jeff Albright and Washington County Criminal Division Chief, Nick Hydukovich.