



*Douglas County
District Attorney*
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Man Convicted of Aggravated Stalking and Terroristic Threats

On Thursday, May 18, 2023, a Douglas County jury returned a verdict convicting twenty-five-year-old Devario Cooper of aggravated stalking, terroristic threats, criminal damage to the property, and obstruction of an officer. The prosecution team was led by Assistant District Attorneys Chelcee Jones and Nelly Ndounteng. This investigation was led by Deputy Crumley of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Chief Superior Court Judge William "Beau" McClain presided over the matter.

On December 21, 2021, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence in regard to a threats call. The victim relayed to law enforcement that Devario Cooper, whom she had a Temporary Protective Order against, was calling their daughter stating he was going to come over to the residence to damage their vehicles and he did not care if the police showed up. The victim was able to share an audio recording of the threats with law enforcement.

While law enforcement was present on scene, Devario called their daughter's cell phone again, at which time a law enforcement deputy spoke with him over the phone. The defendant advised that he was on his way to the residence and for law enforcement to get ready for him. A BOLO was sent out describing the defendant's vehicle. A short while later, Cooper's vehicle was spotted by law enforcement driving into the neighborhood at a high rate of speed. The vehicle jumped the curb in front of the residence narrowly missing law enforcement before it collided with a neighbor's fence.

Cooper then exited the vehicle brandishing a large knife and headed towards law enforcement. Despite numerous commands, Cooper did not release the knife, at which time, a taser was deployed to subdue him. Despite being tased, Cooper still held onto the knife. Finally, after another round of being tased, he dropped the knife, at which point law enforcement approached Cooper and was able to—after much resistance, arrest him.

"We appreciate the courage of law enforcement that arrived on-scene to protect this family and others from the dangerous behaviors of this defendant", stated Douglas County District Attorney Dalia Racine. "We appreciate the jurors swift verdict ensuring that the defendant is held accountable for these actions and keeping our County safe."

After hearing all the evidence and testimony, the jury returned a verdict of guilty convicting Devario Cooper of aggravated stalking, terroristic threats, criminal damage to the property, and obstruction of an officer. Sentencing is scheduled for May 30th.