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PRESS RELEASE

MAN SENTENCED TO 23 YEARS IN STATE PRISON FOR ROAD RAGE SHOOTING

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today the sentence of Frank Devante Stephenson, age 28, who pled no contest on January 11, 2023 to Attempted Murder and Assault with a Firearm. As part of the resolution in this case, Mr. Stephenson also admitted special allegations that during the commission of the Attempted Murder, he inflicted great bodily injury upon the victim and intentionally discharged a firearm. Accordingly, on February 8, 2023, Napa County Superior Court Judge Monique Langhorne sentenced Mr. Stephenson to 23 years in state prison.

Mr. Stephenson's convictions stem from the January 21, 2021 shooting on Devlin Road in Napa County. That evening, Mr. Stephenson was speeding home from work when he came across the 58-year-old victim driving the same direction in his truck. Mr. Stephenson aggressively tailgated the victim, then drove up alongside of him, shot into the victim's truck with a handgun, and hit him in the abdomen. Mr. Stephenson sped away from the scene. Two civilians stopped when they saw the victim in distress on the side of the road. They rendered aid and summoned help. The victim underwent emergency surgery and survived. The victim did not know or recognize the shooter.

On February 4, 2021, two weeks later, Mr. Stephenson pointed a handgun at a second victim. During that incident, Mr. Stephenson engaged in a road rage incident on Highway 29, south of Green Island Road. The victim was driving a semi-truck when Mr. Stephenson cut him off. Mr. Stephenson then slowed down and when the victim drove up next to him in the adjacent lane, he pulled out a gun and pointed it directly at the truck driver. It appeared Mr. Stephenson tried to shoot but was unsuccessful. The truck driver obtained the license plate of the vehicle before Mr. Stephenson got away.

Mr. Stephenson was subsequently identified by the Napa County Sheriff's Office and located at his place of employment in Napa approximately two weeks later. He had a stolen firearm in his car, which was later forensically linked to the shooting. The subsequent investigation in this case established Mr. Stephenson was responsible for both incidents.

This case was investigated by Napa County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Paul Kuhn and prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney Taryn Hunter.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Hunter commented, “this case required extraordinary efforts by the Napa County Sheriff’s Office to identify and link the defendant to these horrendous crimes. While there may be many witnesses to crimes that occur on public highways and roads, they can be challenging to track down and ultimately difficult to secure justice. Here, the selfless witnesses who stopped and assisted the victims played an immeasurable role in saving lives and securing the ultimate detection of the defendant.”

Any questions regarding this case may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.