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PRESS RELEASE

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5 Year Prison Sentence for Aggravated Robbery

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis announced that Quintez Smith-Stewart, of Aurora, Illinois was sentenced to 5 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections by the Honorable Jody Gleason for Aggravated Robbery earlier this month.

Charges resulted from events that took place in December of 2022 when members of the Montgomery Police Department were dispatched to a robbery taking place at a retail establishment on Douglas Road in Montgomery. A cashier had been approached by a man wearing a Santa hat pulled over his face who threatened her with harm if she didn't open the register. Due to the threat, the cashier complied, and the thief left with approximately \$300.00. When the individual fled the store, he got into a vehicle that had been reported stolen. Shortly thereafter the vehicle was located by police with the Santa hat being recovered from inside the stolen vehicle. The hat was processed for evidence by the Illinois State Police Forensic Services Division. After analysis, it was determined that DNA evidence from the hat would identify Smith-Stewart as the culprit. A warrant was later issued for his arrest and Smith-Stewart was taken into custody by law enforcement to await trial.

Weis commented that "Smith-Stewart had a different interpretation of the holiday spirit when he used a Santa hat to steal money from a local business owner. It is fitting that he will spend several Christmas holidays in prison as a result of his criminal actions."

Smith-Stewart will have to serve one year of mandatory supervised release upon his release from prison.

The case was prosecuted by Criminal Chief Frank S. Gorup, and Smith-Stewart was represented by the Kendall County Public Defender's Office.