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PRESS RELEASE

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Defendant found guilty of shooting multiple victims

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis announced that Josua Matias, (dob: 05/01/97, 451 Marion Ave) of Aurora, Illinois, was found guilty after a two-day jury trial last week of two counts of Aggravated Battery with a Firearm and one count of Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm.

The evidence at trial revealed that on January 6, 2019, Matias was with friends at a crowded public restaurant/bar in Montgomery. Following an argument between Matias and another patron, a fight broke out resulting in about 10 people becoming involved in a brawl inside of the business. As the fight was breaking up, Matias worked his way out of the group and pulled out a handgun and fired at least 7 shots into the crowd, striking two people who each sustained non-life threatening injuries.

After the two-day trial, the jury deliberated for two hours before returning guilty verdicts on all three counts. Matias, who had previously entered guilty pleas to two weapons charges related to the same incident, is scheduled to be sentenced on December 9, 2022. He facing 6-30 years imprisonment on each of the three charges he was found guilty of during the jury trial. If the court finds that the victims suffered severe bodily injury, the sentences would run consecutive (back to back) to each other resulting in a minimum sentence 18 years. The weapons charges would be served concurrently.

Weis praised the work of the Montgomery Police Department, the Kendall County Major Crimes Task Force, and the Aurora Police Department for their hard work investigating this crime. Weis also commended First Assistant Mark Shlifka and Assistant State's Attorney Ryan Phelps for prosecuting the case and securing the guilty verdicts. Matias was represented by attorney Alex Bederka.

Weis stated, "Safety in our community is of paramount importance. We cannot tolerate the conduct of this defendant who put the lives of so many people in jeopardy because his ego was hurt. Fortunately, each of the victims have recovered from their injuries and no other patrons were injured."

This case was one of four successful felony jury trials handled by the Kendall County State's Attorney's Office this week.