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PRESS RELEASE

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20 years prison sentence for shooting two victims

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis announced that Josua Matias, (dob: 05/01/97, 451 Marion Ave) of Aurora, Illinois was sentenced to 20 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections by the Honorable Robert Pilmer for Aggravated Battery with a Firearm. Matias was convicted after a jury trial back in September of 2022.

Charges were filed against Matias from back on January 6, 2019, Matias, a convicted felon, walked into a crowded restaurant/bar in Montgomery with a loaded handgun. While inside the business, he became involved in an argument with another patron who was known to him. The other patron struck Matias, which caused a fight among approximately 10 people in the business. During the fight, Matias, took out the handgun from his waistband, and made his way toward the front door. As he was moving toward the front door, with no threat approaching him, he fired at least 7 shots into the crowd, striking two people, including the man that struck him, who was shot in the leg. The other shooting victim was a female who was shot in the arm. Matias then fled the business. The female victim required a tourniquet on the scene due to the amount of bleeding and both victims were transported to the hospital for their injuries. The entire incident was captured on the security video system for the business.

Matias was arrested and charged with Armed Habitual Criminal, two counts of Aggravated Battery (Firearm), Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm, and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon.

On April 13, 2022, Matias entered guilty pleas to the Armed Habitual Criminal and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon counts. The remaining three counts were scheduled for a jury trial. On September 22, 2022, a jury found Matias guilty of the two Aggravated Battery (Firearm) counts as well as Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm.

On December 9, 2022, Judge Robert Pilmer sentenced Matias as follows: Aggravated Battery (Firearm) – 20 years, Aggravated Battery (Firearm) – 10 years, Armed Habitual Criminal – 10 years, Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm – 10 years, and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a felon – 8 years. These sentences are required to be served concurrent with one another.

Weis praised the work of the Montgomery Police Department and the Kendall County Major Crimes Task Force for quickly responding to and thoroughly investigating this crime. Weis also commended First Assistant Mark Shlifka and Assistant State's Attorney Ryan Phelps for securing the guilty pleas, the jury verdicts, and the lengthy prison sentence for these crimes.

Weis stated, "This is an example of how some offenders are not capable of rehabilitation. Matias, a previously convicted felon, had no legal right to even possess a firearm because of his felony convictions. Yet, he not only carried one into a business, he shot two people in the process. Everyone deserves to feel safe in this community. Hopefully, this verdict and sentence will serve as a reminder that there are severe consequences for this type of conduct."

Matias was represented by attorney Alex Bederka.