



OFFICE OF STATE ATTORNEY  
GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN  
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

May 4, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

State Attorney Ginger Bowden Madden announced that on April 29, 2021, 26 year-old Ralph Waldo Emerson IV was sentenced to a total of 50 years in state prison by the Honorable Thomas Dannheisser after pleading no contest to Attempted First Degree Premeditated Murder with a Weapon and no contest to violation of probation charges on 4 felony cases. Judge Dannheisser imposed a 20 year prison sentence for the attempted murder case and 30 years state prison to run consecutive for the violations of probation. At the time of the attempted murder, Emerson was on probation for offenses committed in 2014.

On December 17, 2015, the defendant was sentenced to 5 years state prison followed by 2 years of probation for the four criminal cases with offenses that occurred in 2014. On April 10, 2019, less than one month after being released from prison for the 2014 crimes, the defendant stabbed the victim while seated in a car a total of 8 times in the chest and abdomen. The stab wounds severed an artery and caused both lungs to collapse. The victim managed to walk to a nearby house where he fell on a porch and nearly died. The resident of the home called 911, and Officer Berthiaume with the Pensacola Police Department was the first officer to respond to the crime scene. The attempted murder case was investigated by Detective Ghigliotty with the Pensacola Police Department.

Assistant State Attorney Ki Misora McInnis was assigned to the sentencing proceedings. For further information, please contact the State Attorney's Office at 850-595-4200.