



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAR THIEF SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS IN PRISON

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Bryan Scott Bingham, 39, of Springfield, Missouri was sentenced today by the Honorable David Jones to a total of 18 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for nine counts of tampering in the first degree, three counts of resisting lawful detention/arrest, and three counts of fraudulent use of a debit device that he committed between September 28, 2014 and November 7, 2014.

Between September 28, 2014 and November 7, 2014, the defendant stole nine separate vehicles and then fraudulently used the debit cards found in the vehicles to purchase items. Although some of the cars were recovered, most of the recovered cars had significant damage. On three separate occasions, the defendant was caught by law enforcement and, each time, the defendant fled from the police. On two of those occasions, he appeared to be under the influence of drugs and fled in the stolen cars, driving in a careless and imprudent manner and placing the public at risk. Once he was finally apprehended, the defendant confessed to “working for” a “crew” that stole vehicles to repay a drug debt. In approximately one month’s time, the defendant victimized ten different people.

The defendant is a prior and persistent felony offender with convictions for violation of an order of protection, harassment, property damage – 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, leaving the scene of an accident, tampering in the first degree, damage to jail property, resisting arrest, possession of marijuana, three convictions for receiving stolen property, and two convictions for forgery. Between 2007 and 2012, the defendant had been offered multiple resources, through the criminal justice system, to address his substance abuse history and his mental health history including in-patient substance abuse treatment, out-patient substance abuse treatment, substance abuse treatment within the

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Department of Corrections, and Greene County treatment court. Despite all of those opportunities for resources, the defendant continued to engage in criminal activity, culminating in his crime spree in the fall of 2014.

After reviewing the defendant's criminal history, history with treatment, learning about the impact of these crimes on the victims, hearing the State's and the defendant's argument, and despite the defendant's request for long term treatment in the Department of Corrections, Judge Jones sentenced the defendant to a total of 18 years in the Department of Corrections. The request for long term treatment and probation was denied.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Stephanie Wan. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Pepper Jackson was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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