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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2024

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Man Sentenced to Life for Attacking Officer on Facebook Live

ORANGE COUNTY, Fla. – An Orange County jury found William McClish, 29, guilty of Attempted Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer and other offenses after a surprise attack on two patrol officers he streamed live on Facebook.

On September 25, 2021, two Orlando Police Department uniformed patrol officers stood outside their vehicle at North Magnolia and East Washington Street. The defendant leaned his phone against a trash can, positioning the two officers in view of the camera. McClish began streaming live on Facebook and armed himself with a brick. He returned in view of the camera and was captured on video striking an officer in the head with the brick. A struggle ensued between McClish, the second officer and a witness who all tried to subdue McClish, who was actively fighting and resisting.

Both officers were injured. In addition to the battery with the brick on the first officer, McClish bit and gouged the second officer's eye during the attack. Officers gave McClish several commands to comply and stop resisting. He refused to comply and attempted to take the first officer's firearm. He ripped the second officer's radio off his uniform to prevent him from calling for assistance. After a few minutes, additional officers arrived on the scene and arrested McClish.

While in jail, McClish boasted about his attempt to take the officer's firearm during the assault. Further investigation revealed a previously recorded video on his phone where he stated, "I'm gonna kill him on live," establishing premeditation and his intention to kill.

McClish represented himself at trial. During his opening remarks he only said, "I didn't do it and the evidence was tampered with." The jury returned a verdict within an hour and found McClish guilty of Attempted First Degree Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer, Resisting an Officer with Violence, Aggravated Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer with Great Bodily Harm, Depriving an Officer of Means of Protection/Communication and Attempted Depriving Officer of Means of Protection/Communication. The judge sentenced McClish to life in prison.

State Attorney Bain has media availability to discuss this case at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 3 outside the Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit. Please RSVP to PIO@sao9.org if you plan on attending.

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