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Press Release

For Immediate Release

January 8, 2016

Man Sentenced to 50 Years

GALVESTON – Yesterday, Rainier Monte Conley, 23, was sentenced to 50 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, for the felony offenses of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon.

On Monday, January 4, 2016 trial began in the 10th District Court. The State presented evidence that Rainier Conley, along with three other males, committed Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon against two victims on December 16, 2014. The State also presented to the jury evidence of Conley's possession of a firearm on December 30, 2014.

According to trial testimony, shortly after midnight on December 16, 2014 the victims were stopped at a stop light when a Dodge Charger, occupied by four males, pulled up next to them and then followed them to the gas station at the intersection of State Highway 3 and FM 1764. The driver, identified as Conley, and a passenger, identified as co-defendant Deandre David Lamb, exited the Dodge Charger and approached one of the victims telling him they wanted the victim's tires. The front seat passenger of the suspect vehicle was identified as Dacarlous Marcel Frank. When the victims saw that Lamb had a gun, they got back into their vehicle and left, traveling north on State Highway 3. The defendants followed the victims and began to shoot at the victims, striking their vehicle several times. While being pursued by the suspects, the victims contacted the police and gave their location, eventually pulling over once the police began to pursue the suspects.

Texas City Police Department (TCPD) Officers, while at the La Marque Police Department (LMPD) building, heard gun shots in the distance and left to assist LMPD officers dispatched to the

disturbance. Officers eventually located both the victim's and suspect's vehicles traveling northbound on State Highway 3, just north of FM 2004. The police pursue the vehicle from State Highway 3 to the Walmart parking lot on Interstate Highway 45, where officers briefly lose track of the vehicle. Officers then pursued the vehicle northbound on Interstate Highway 45 to FM 646 and then east to State Highway 3. Conley eventually went back to La Marque, crashing into a stop sign at the intersection of Lake Road and Bellview before fleeing on foot. Conley was pursued by officers but was not located. Officers contacted the registered owner of the Dodge Charger and determined him to be the father of Conley, who tells officers that Conley drives the vehicle and had possession of the vehicle at the time.

Over the next few weeks, one victim contacted the TCPD with information he learned. The victim told officers that he learned the names of three of the suspects. The victim was unable to find a name for the fourth suspect, the driver, but said he remembered how he looked. The victim also informed the police of threats he had been receiving from the suspects and information told to him that the suspects were looking for him. The victim also believed the suspects were following him in a black Cadillac.

On December 30, 2014, the victim contacted the police to report seeing the driver (Conley) following him and driving a black Cadillac. Later that day, TCPD officers stopped a black Cadillac for a traffic violation and identified the driver as Conley. Conley was arrested for the traffic violation and for active capias warrants. During an inventory of the vehicle, officers found a .380 semiautomatic weapon handgun next to a partially loaded magazine under the driver seat. In an interview following his arrest Conley admitted to



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possessing the gun.

During the victim's police interview and photo-line up concerning the assault, he picked out Conley as the driver, Lamb as the back seat passenger (behind the driver) with a gun shooting at the victims, and Frank as the front seat passenger who he believed also had a gun and was shooting at the victims.

The jury returned with a guilty verdict on Wednesday and punishment began on Thursday morning. Conley pled true to the single enhancement for his 2012 felony conviction for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. The State presented additional evidence focusing on Conley's history. A Galveston County Sheriff's Office Deputy explained Conley's known gang association with the 43rd Street Bloods. In addition to the two charges presented at trial, Conley was charged in March 2015 for possessing cocaine. Finally a Galveston Police Officer testified about the prior Aggravated Assault, explaining that Conley shot a minor with a shotgun and that at the time of the shooting he was on bond for a robbery charge that was dismissed with his conviction for the aggravated assault. The robbery involved Conley and another individual assaulting a juvenile who was walking home, stealing the victim's phone and money.

ADA Henderson argued in his closing to the jury that the only way to protect society from Conley was to lock him up. ADA Henderson described Conley as a violent individual, focusing the jury's attention on Conley's prior behavior and affiliations. The State asked the jury to sentence to Conley to at least 50 years in prison.

The Defendant faced a sentencing range of 5 years to Life, because of the enhancement. The jury deliberated punishment Thursday afternoon,

returning shortly before 5:00 pm with a sentence of 50 years in prison. Conley will not be eligible for parole until at least half of his sentence has been served.

Conley, Lamb, and Frank were indicted in March 2015. The fourth has not been positively identified. Lamb pled to 8 years in prison on September 8, 2015, for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon in an unrelated case. The aggravated assault with a deadly weapon charge against Lamb was dismissed in conjunction with his plea. Frank pled guilty on June 23, 2015 to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for his role in the shooting and received 10 years deferred community supervision.

Conley was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Christopher Henderson and Beverly Armstrong in the 10th District Court, with Judge Kerry Neves presiding. The investigation was conducted by officers and detectives of the Texas City Police Department.