

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



**JOSEPH H. McMAHON**  
State's Attorney

Kane County Judicial Center  
37W777 Route 38 Suite 300  
St. Charles, Illinois 60175

General Offices: (630) 232-3500  
Contact:  
Christopher Nelson (630) 232-3500

### **AURORA MAN GUILTY FOR UNLAWFULLY POSSESSING GUN**

#### **TWO PRIOR GUN-RELATED CONVICTIONS MEANS MINIMUM 6-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE**

May 16, 2018

An Aurora man has been convicted for possessing a handgun he was not lawfully allowed to possess because of two prior forcible felony convictions.

A Kane County jury on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, convicted 34-year-old **Ronald Smith** of the offense of armed habitual criminal, Class X felony.

The jurors deliberated for about 1 hour, 15 minutes before reaching their verdict.

Kane County Assistant States' Attorneys Daniel Weiler and Andrew Whitfield presented evidence during the trial that at about 7:45 p.m. Sept. 19, 2015, Aurora police received information that Smith planned to commit an armed robbery at that time in the area of the 1-99 block of North Union Street, Aurora, and that Smith would be in a white Toyota pickup truck. Aurora police went to the location and saw the vehicle. Police then saw two men get into the vehicle and drive away. A short time later police later stopped the vehicle for a traffic violation, and saw Smith, who was sitting in the passenger seat, reach down and appear to put something under the seat. Police asked Smith and the driver to step out of the vehicle. Smith was wearing black pants, a black sweatshirt, a black glove and had a mask around his neck. The driver gave consent for police to search the vehicle. Police found a loaded .45 caliber High Point semiautomatic pistol under the seat where Smith had been sitting.

According to Illinois law, because of prior Kane County convictions – from a 2001 charge of robbery and a 2002 charge of aggravated robbery – Smith was not eligible to possess a firearm.

A person is eligible to be charged with the offense of armed habitual criminal when he or she possesses a gun after having been convicted of at least two prior forcible felonies.

Circuit Judge James C. Hallock set Smith's next court appearance for 1:30 p.m. June 20, 2018, in Courtroom 313 at the Kane County Judicial Center for motions and sentencing. Smith faces a sentence of between 6 and 60 years' imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Smith remains in the Kane County jail, where he has been held since his arrest in lieu of \$300,000 bail. Judge Hallock revoked bond upon conviction.

“Violent and repeat gun offenders should go to prison. Mr. Smith has a horrible criminal record and now he is headed back to prison, where he belongs. My thanks to the Aurora Police Department, who, through good, old-fashioned police work prevented a violent crime and took a career criminal off the streets. Well done, APD,” Kane County State’s Attorney Joe McMahon said.

**Ronald Smith:** Age 34 (d.o.b. 6-21-1983), of the 300 block of West Illinois Avenue, Aurora