

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



SHANNON WALLACE  
District Attorney

Cherokee County Justice Center  
90 North Street, Suite 390  
Canton, GA 30114

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Cyndi Crossland  
Public Information Officer  
cbcrossland@cherokeega.com  
770-479-1488

**Criminal Street Gang Member Pleads Guilty to Charges Related to Entering Autos and Theft**  
**State vs. Rashad Alonzo Harris**

**July 15, 2020** – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that DeKalb County resident Rashad Alonzo Harris, 20, entered a negotiated guilty plea and was sentenced on April 30 for charges related to entering autos in December 2018 and January 2019. Charges included 2 counts of violation of the Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act, 63 counts of entering an automobile, 20 counts of theft by taking, and 1 count of theft by receiving.

“Rashad Harris came to our county for one reason – to steal guns for a criminal gang. On those two winter nights, he not only stole belongings from vehicles parked in front of private homes, he also robbed 45 victims of their feeling of safety and security,” said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. “In collaboration with our law enforcement partners, the District Attorney’s Office was able to secure a sentence to keep this criminal off our streets and away from these gang activities.”

On December 4, 2018, deputies from the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office responded to a series of vehicle break-ins that occurred overnight in homes off Toonigh Road in Canton. In total, residents reported 35 separate incidents of entering automobiles, with three guns stolen, in addition to the theft of electronics, wallets and cash.

Seven weeks later, on January 22, 2019, law enforcement from CSO and Holly Springs Police responded to a series of vehicle break-ins in the vicinity of Hickory Road near Holly Springs Elementary School. Residents reported 28 vehicles entered, with two guns stolen, in addition to the theft of wallets, gift cards and cash.

While investigating these crimes, CSO obtained surveillance videos from residents that showed individuals entering and attempting to enter vehicles. In addition, deputies recovered cell phones that identified two suspects. Harris left his cell phone inside a stolen vehicle, and his accomplice, a juvenile from Gwinnett County, dropped his cell phone in a victim’s yard.

“Harris and his accomplices were caught on camera systematically going from driveway to driveway, checking for unlocked car doors, then ransacking the cars looking for handguns, money, or anything of value,” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney David Holmes, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State. “This was not just a group of delinquent teens getting into mischief; this was premeditated, organized gang activity happening right here in Cherokee County.”

Harris is a member of a criminal hybrid gang known as Bloxh Rixh, a subset of Gangster Disciples. He is believed to have recruited individuals to come to Cherokee County for the purpose of entering automobiles to steal firearms.

Harris received a 15-year sentence, with the first 3 years to be served in confinement and the remainder on probation. He was ordered to pay restitution to the victims in an amount totaling \$12,748. He is also banned from Cherokee County when he's released on probation. Other conditions of probation include performing 200 hours of community service, not having any contact with a member or associate of a criminal street gang, and not associating with anyone who uses or possesses alcohol or illegal drugs.

*The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.*

###

### **Crime Trend – Entering Autos and Theft by Taking**

This case should be a reminder to always lock vehicles and secure valuables, especially handguns.

In recent years, Cherokee County has seen an increase in criminal activity involving entering automobiles with intent to commit theft.

Thieves are sometimes street gang members, looking for weapons. They arrive in groups, canvassing neighborhoods looking for unlocked vehicles. Once inside a vehicle, they steal guns, then quickly move on to another vehicle. A stolen gun may become a weapon in a violent crime.