

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

**Bartow County Resident Pleads Guilty to Charges Related to Entering Autos and Theft**  
**State vs. Zachary Adam Dempsey**

**September 10, 2020** – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that Zachary Adam Dempsey, 25, entered a negotiated guilty plea and was sentenced on September 1 for entering unlocked automobiles in a Waleska neighborhood in 2019. Charges included 22 counts of entering autos and 7 counts of theft by taking.

On February 17, 2019, deputies from the Cherokee Sheriff's Office responded to a series of vehicle break-ins that occurred overnight in homes in the Fox Hills subdivision of Waleska. In total, residents reported 22 separate incidents of entering automobiles, with three guns stolen, in addition to other items.

While investigating these crimes, CSO obtained surveillance videos from residents that showed Dempsey entering and attempting to enter vehicles.

"At a time when most people are sleeping, Zachary Dempsey was methodically going through a neighborhood, intent on stealing from unsuspecting citizens. He ended up finding 22 unlocked vehicles and locating several guns and other valuables," said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney David Holmes.

Dempsey received a 20-year sentence, with the first 5 years to be served in prison and the remainder on probation. He was ordered to pay restitution to the victims. Other conditions of probation include 200 hours of community service, substance abuse evaluation and treatment, no alcohol or illegal drugs, and no contact with the victims. Dempsey was also banished from the county.

During the hearing, Judge David Cannon, Jr. encouraged the defendant to make a change in his life and reminded him that these types of crimes will not be tolerated. He noted that this crime could have easily turned into a life-altering event for the defendant or any of the victims. He also said that there were likely many more victims than those reported.

"In addition to his crimes of entering autos and theft by taking, Dempsey stole the irreplaceable feeling of safety and security for innocent victims of this neighborhood," said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. "Unfortunately, this crime continues to wreak havoc in communities throughout the county."

*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.*

###