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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Drug Bust on I-75 Leads to Lengthy Prison Sentences for Two Co-Defendants
State vs. Mandy Macall Maloney and Christopher Lewis Partin

July 7, 2023 – Cherokee County District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that two co-defendants in a drug trafficking case are now serving lengthy prison sentences after entering negotiated guilty pleas in June 2023.

Christopher Lewis Partin, 36, of Fort Oglethorpe, pled guilty on June 23, 2023, to trafficking methamphetamine. He was sentenced to 30 years, with 18 years to serve in prison and the remainder on probation. Due to the State's prosecution of Partin as a recidivist offender pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(a) and § 17-10-7(c), he will be required to serve the entire prison portion of his sentence without parole eligibility.

Mandy Macall Maloney, 38, of Rossville, pled guilty on June 26, 2023, to trafficking methamphetamine and was sentenced to 30 years, with the first 25 years to serve in prison and the remainder on probation.

Charges stem from a Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad (CMANS) investigation that started with a traffic stop. At 12:05 p.m. on March 3, 2022, a Cherokee Sheriff's Office deputy pulled over a silver Honda Civic with a cracked windshield after the driver merged into the right lane without signaling a lane change while traveling north on I-75 toward Highway 92.

Partin told CSO he had recently purchased the vehicle but did not have a title, bill of sale, or proof of insurance. He said that he and Maloney were traveling from Savannah, where they had visited a friend for about an hour. After running Partin's information, CSO determined that he had an active warrant through Bartow County for violation of probation for a charge of possession of drugs with intent to distribute. Partin was placed in handcuffs and detained due to this arrest warrant.

At this point, a CSO K-9 officer conducted a free air sniff and alerted to the smell of narcotics in the vehicle. Partin and Maloney then admitted that there was a large amount of marijuana and methamphetamine in the car.

"The deputy who initiated the traffic stop was not surprised to hear the suspects were transporting drugs. They had been acting suspicious from the beginning. The driver was excessively nervous, and there was an overpowering smell of air fresheners coming from the vehicle. When the driver claimed to have traveled five hours to Savannah for a one-hour visit with a friend, the deputy recognized this as likely related to criminal activity," said Assistant District Attorney Macelyne Williams, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State. "What started out as a routine traffic stop turned into the biggest drug bust this particular deputy had seen in his career."

Once it was clear that the vehicle contained drugs, CSO conducted a vehicle search on the side of I-75. During the search, deputies located in the trunk a backpack with approximately 4 pounds of marijuana and on the passenger side floorboard a backpack with several bags of methamphetamine weighing nearly 1.5 kilograms.

Both Partin and Maloney were transported to the Oak Grove precinct where they spoke to law enforcement. They each claimed to be working with an incarcerated man who sent them to pick up drugs for him. Maloney said she brought Partin in as part of the drug ring.

“Throughout this traffic stop, this deputy did an amazing job utilizing his training and experience, as well as the skills of his K-9 partner, to ensure that drug traffickers were arrested and dangerous drugs were removed from our streets,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “Highly trained K-9s, with their incredible sense of smell, make it nearly impossible for drugs to go undetected. We express our thanks to this deputy and his K-9 for setting the wheels in motion for the investigation and ultimate prosecution of these two defendants.”

This case was investigated by the Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad (CMANS) and the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Macelyne Williams and Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Damion Overstreet, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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.

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