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OFFICE OF
STATE ATTORNEY
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

November 14, 2023

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

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PRESS RELEASE

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

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Ginger Bowden Madden, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, announced that on November 9, 2023, Circuit Judge John Gontarek sentenced Anthony Michael Gabriel to mandatory life in prison, plus an additional 15 years in prison to be served consecutively to his life sentence. The sentence comes after an Okaloosa County jury found Gabriel guilty as charged of Armed Burglary of a Dwelling with a Firearm and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. The verdict was rendered after a three-day trial on September 13, 2023, in Crestview, Florida.

OKALOOSA COUNTY

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Evidence at trial showed that on August 11, 2021, Gabriel stealthily entered a stranger's home located in a remote area in Baker, Florida. When Gabriel entered the home, he was dressed in black clothing and was carrying a rope and a loaded 9mm firearm with an extended magazine. Shortly upon gaining entry to the home, Gabriel was confronted by the homeowner, who held Gabriel at gunpoint until law enforcement arrived.

WALTON COUNTY

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At sentencing, Assistant State Attorney Leah Glisson was able to show that Gabriel qualified for enhanced penalties under the Prison Releasee Reoffender statute. Due to the Prison Releasee Reoffender enhancement, Florida law mandates that Gabriel be sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole.

The investigations were conducted by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and Assistant State Attorney Leah Glisson prosecuted the cases. Any questions may be directed to the State Attorney's Office at (850) 689-5620.