
February 10, 2017

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Joseph Robbins
Age: 51
City and State of residence: Fitzgerald, GA
Criminal File Number: 16-318
Offense Date: August 28, 2016
Indictment Date: September 7, 2016
Offenses Charged: Ct.1: Possession of Marijuana More than One Pound Less than Ten Pounds (F4)
Ct.2: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (M2)
Ct.3: Driving Without a Valid License (M2)
Arraignment Date: May 9, 2016
Change of Plea Date: October 24, 2016
Convicted of: Ct.1: Possession of Marijuana More than One Pound Less than Ten Pounds (F4)
Sentencing Date: October 24, 2016
Officer: DCI SA Brian Schnabel
DCI SA Ryan Pennock
Trooper Stuart Griffith - SDHP
Defense Attorney: Tom Frieberg
Prosecutor: Alexis A. Tracy

Case Synopsis:

On August 29, 2016, stopped a U-Haul moving van traveling southbound on Interstate 29 at mile marker 34 within Union County. Joseph Robbins was the driver and Elizabeth Baker was the passenger. The officer pulled the vehicle over for a lane driving violation. ROBBINS did not have a valid license. ROBBINS and BAKER gave two different stories. The Trooper was given consent to search the U-Haul truck. During the search, the trooper found a large amount of crushed / ground marijuana in a coffee cans along with various marijuana pipes. One can contained 9.51 ounces of marijuana, and a second can contained 4.75 ounces of marijuana.

BAKER told law enforcement that she has never been in trouble before. BAKER stated that she did not know there was marijuana in the truck, however, she did admit that she used marijuana about one week prior to making this move. BAKER stated that when she last used marijuana that she rolled the marijuana into a joint. One of the cans that contained the marijuana also had a joint roller inside.

ROBBINS told law enforcement that he had only been in trouble for bad checks many years ago. A records check revealed that ROBBINS had been arrested for theft and forgery. ROBBINS claimed that they both loaded the U-Haul together. ROBBINS denied being a drug user and stated that he had not used cocaine for about 20 years now, and that he accidentally ate some marijuana infused brownies about two weeks prior to this stop.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On October 24, 2016, the Court addressed the class 4 felony charge of possession of marijuana more than one pound less than ten pounds. The Court sentenced ROBBINS to serve 120 days in the Union County Jail. The Court suspended 30 days of the sentence on the term and condition that ROBBINS pay all of his financial obligations prior to his release from custody. The Court Ordered that ROBBINS receive credit for the 57 days he was incarcerated prior to sentencings. It was further ordered that ROBBINS must pay the following: \$104 in court costs; \$500 in fines; and court-appointed attorney fees in the amount of \$427.80. The Court ordered that this sentence shall run concurrent with ROBBINS's current felony sentence.

Criminal History Synopsis:

This is ROBBINS's second career felony conviction. ROBBINS's criminal history includes one felony conviction for forgery.