

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Guilty verdict for two men accused of trafficking methamphetamine, third co-defendant pleads guilty –
All three sentenced to state prison**
State vs. James Daniel O’Bryant, Robert Joseph Fowler, and Heather Elizabeth Trott

June 30, 2022 – Cherokee County District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that three Woodstock residents have been sentenced to prison time for trafficking methamphetamine.

A Cherokee County jury convicted James Daniel O’Bryant, 52, and Robert Joseph Fowler, 57, on March 24, 2022. Chief Superior Court Judge Ellen McElyea sentenced the two men to prison during a hearing on May 5, 2022. Heather Elizabeth Trott, 46, also of Woodstock, entered a negotiated guilty plea and was sentenced on March 21, 2022.

All three co-defendants were arrested in early 2021 for trafficking methamphetamine and other charges. On January 12, 2021, Woodstock Police initiated a traffic stop on a truck due to the driver, O’Bryant, failing to maintain his lane. During the stop, a K-9 detected drugs and officers located approximately 987 grams of methamphetamine in the truck.

During the investigation that followed, law enforcement suspected that other parties might also be involved in trafficking methamphetamine. Later the same day, Woodstock Police attempted a traffic stop on Fowler, a close acquaintance of O’Bryant, who was seen driving his truck in a reckless manner. Instead of pulling over for law enforcement, Fowler fled from the scene. Woodstock Police officers and Cherokee Sheriff’s Office deputies to pursued the truck, which was eventually brought to a stop by a PIT maneuver. Law enforcement then located approximately 57 grams of methamphetamine in Fowler’s truck.

The following day, on January 13, 2021, the Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad (CMANS) conducted a search warrant of a home where O’Bryant and Trott lived. CMANS agents located approximately 200 grams of methamphetamine as well as a 9mm pistol owned by O’Bryant.

“The District Attorney’s Office is proud of the commitment to excellence that our CMANS agents exhibit in each of their investigations. Through their meticulous work, as well as the work of the Woodstock Police Department and the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office, a large amount of meth was taken off the streets. Cherokee County is a safer place because of the work of these agencies,” said Assistant District Attorney Damion Overstreet, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State.

Judge McElyea sentenced O'Bryant to 30 years to be served in state prison and Fowler to 30 years with the first 20 years to be served in prison. Both men were sentenced as recidivists pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(a) and § 17-10-7(c) and will be required to serve the entire prison portion of their sentence without parole eligibility.

Trott, who entered a negotiated guilty plea to her charges, was sentenced to 20 years with the first 10 years to be served in prison.

"These defendants were engaged in spreading dangerous drugs to our citizens and those of nearby counties. Through effective collaboration of multiple law enforcement agencies and a successful prosecution, this trafficking operation has been shut down and these individuals will remain behind bars for many years," said District Attorney Shannon Wallace.

This case was investigated by the Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad (CMANS), the Cherokee Sheriff's Office, and the Woodstock Police Department. It was prosecuted by 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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