



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Friday, November 9, 2018

**Contact:** Brittany Kershaw; (386) 586-2637; [bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com](mailto:bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com)

## **Sheriff in Courtroom While Phillip Haire Jr. Pleads to 25 Years in Prison for Shooting at a Deputy**

Sheriff Rick Staly was present in the courtroom on Friday afternoon while Phillip Haire Junior, 21, accepted a plea deal to spend the next twenty-five years in prison for attempted second degree murder of a law enforcement officer (LEO), aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, carjacking with a firearm, and burglary with a firearm.



From left: Judge Perkins, Defense Attorney Jeremy Buckmaster, Phillip Haire Jr, Deputy Brian Sheridan, Defense Attorney Lawrence Avallone, Sheriff Staly, and Deputy Anthony Marino.

Haire, 19 at the time, shot at his parents and FCSO Commander Phil Reynolds, a Sergeant at the time, during the late afternoon of May 1, 2017. Reynolds was at the residence following up on a 911 report of threats at his parent's house on London Drive in Palm Coast. No one was injured during the shooting but Haire fled and wrecked his vehicle. He then carjacked another vehicle at gunpoint. After a massive manhunt, Haire turned himself in to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office the following day and has been in custody ever since.

"If you shoot at one of my deputies, you will pay a heavy penalty. While I would have preferred a

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sentence of life in prison, which he was facing, I believe justice has been served,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “I am just happy we did not have to bury a Deputy Sheriff or anyone else because of his violent acts that day.”

“I’d like to thank the men and women of the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office during and after this incident,” Commander Phil Reynolds said following the sentencing. “After being involved in an incident like this, it proves that violence is not the answer with any family issues. I do wish his family the best moving forward.”

State Attorney R.J. Larizza also stated, "It is extremely troubling that the defendant assaulted not only Law Enforcement but his mother and father as well. We should never forget the dangerous nature of the law enforcement profession, and the deadly nature of domestic disputes. I hope the defendant will reflect on his actions while incarcerated in the Florida state prison system." Jason Lewis served as the prosecutor in this case for the State of Florida.

Judge Terence Perkins thoroughly discussed the plea agreement with Haire to which Haire repeatedly responded “Yes sir, your Honor.” Haire pled guilty to each of the seven charges.

Sheriff Staly represented Commander Reynolds at the hearing and sentencing since Commander Reynolds was in training and could not attend. “When offenders violently assault one of our deputies, I will always see the case through to conclusion,” added Sheriff Staly.

Haire must serve a mandatory minimum sentence of twenty years in state prison for the charges of carjacking with a firearm, burglary with a firearm and attempted second degree murder of a law enforcement officer. He will serve the sentences of the remaining charges concurrently and will receive credit for time served. Once released from prison, he will begin ten years of supervised probation with special conditions of a mental health evaluation, drug screening, and is subject to being searched until the end of the probation term. His driver’s license was also revoked for life.

*Initial news releases below.*

**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2017

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**Release #:** 2017-075

## **UPDATE: Shooter Phillip Haire Jr. In Custody**

The suspect, who fired at a Flagler County Sheriff’s Office (FCSO) deputy, is now in custody. Phillip Haire Jr. turned himself in just before 9:30 p.m. to the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office. Sheriff Rick Staly held a press conference tonight at the Sheriff’s Operations Center in Bunnell just after 10:30 p.m.

“This is the result of hard work by every member of Flagler County Sheriff’s Office and our

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neighboring sheriff's offices and law enforcement agencies, specifically Putnam County Sheriff's Office," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "We followed every lead and put significant pressure on his known associates. Because of this, the suspect decided it was in his best interest to turn himself in to Putnam Sheriff's Office. This is the best possible outcome."

Haire shot at a FCSO Sergeant Reynolds late Monday afternoon following a 911 report of threats at 11 London Drive in Palm Coast. No one was injured during the shooting. The suspect then fled before wrecking his vehicle and carjacking another vehicle at gunpoint. He will be transferred to the Flagler County Inmate Facility tomorrow.



Phillip Haire Jr. in a Facebook photo dated Dec. 2016.

**Date:** Monday, May 1, 2017

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**Release #:** 2017-074

## **Man Fires at Deputy, Flees**

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The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) needs your help to find 19-year-old Philip Joseph Haire Jr. He may be driving a 2013 Ford Fiesta, dark blue, with Florida tag EEYR82. The suspect is considered armed and dangerous.



Source: Facebook

Haire shot at a deputy today on London Drive in Palm Coast. No one was injured during the shooting. The suspect then fled before wrecking his vehicle and carjacking another vehicle at gunpoint.

“I encourage him to turn himself in before he or someone else gets hurt,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “We will find him and bring him to justice. If he shoots at one of my deputies, we will shoot back.” An alert was sent out to agencies statewide to be on the lookout for this man. Multiple agencies joined with the FCSO in tracking the suspect, including St. Johns County and Putnam County.

Anyone with information about this incident should call the Flagler County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line at (386) 313-4911. Or, to remain anonymous, please call Crime Stoppers of Northeast Florida at 1-888-277-8477 (TIPS). Callers may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

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