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Fort Worth man sentenced to life for running over police officer

(Fort Worth, TX) – On Monday, a Tarrant County jury sentenced Ronnie Jackson, 41, to life in prison after finding him guilty of aggravated assault of a peace officer with a deadly weapon in a 2020 attack against a Fort Worth police officer.

On June 13, 2020, patrol officers tried to stop a man evading arrest in a stolen vehicle on Interstate 820. As he neared the Camp Bowie West Boulevard exit, an officer stood on the side of the road, throwing out spike strips to slow the driver.

Jackson drove toward the officer, hitting him, and then running over him. He fled the scene and hid in a nearby neighborhood. The officer was taken to the hospital and underwent immediate surgery for extensive, life-threatening injuries.

Tarrant County Assistant District Attorneys Lisa Callaghan and D.J. Estes prosecuted the case.

"This person is a danger to everyone he comes in contact with," Estes told the jury. "It is safer for everyone, including the defendant, if he is in prison."

This was no accident, Callaghan said.

"Someone was out joyriding and didn't give a damn who he hit," she told the jury. "What (witnesses) saw was an intentional mowing down of a police officer."

Callaghan asked the jury what message they wanted to send to police officers and the community with their sentence.

"You are the moral compass of our community," she told them. "Do the right thing. Point true north."

DA Investigator Ben Lopez and Victim Advocate Laura Medina worked on the case as well. Thanks to the Fort Worth Police Department for their work on this case and for their commitment to keeping our community safe.