



Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Office

David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sheriff's Apprehension Unit Arrests Absconding HOC Inmate After Pursuit Suspected of Shooting Two Subjects After He Cut GPS Bracelet



Milwaukee, WI – On Friday, April 1, at 8:45 a.m., the Sheriff's Office Apprehension Unit apprehended Milwaukee County House of Correction (HOC) inmate Matthew B. Hardin, age 23, a convicted felon who had absconded from Huber/GPS monitoring late Wednesday, March 30, following a short pursuit from a residence near 11th and Vine streets in Milwaukee.

Statement from Sheriff David Clarke:

"People in the Milwaukee area continue to wonder why we are experiencing an increase in violent crime. There are several factors, including judicial sentencing policies that give repeat offenders new life to commit more serious crimes.

This suspect is no stranger to the criminal justice system in Milwaukee County. This reliance on soft devices to monitor career criminals is too high a risk to the well-being of this community. These sanctions have wonderful-sounding names attached to them, such as home detention, work release, alternatives to incarceration, and community corrections. We continually hear from advocates of these criminals that these alternatives are successful in reducing crime.

Matthew Hardin is a suspect in the shooting of two people after he absconded from the HOC. The question I have is, how did that work out for the victims? When these soft-on-crime social engineering experiments explode, they don't explode on the criminal advocates or the sentencing judge or their friends and families or in their neighborhoods.

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My Apprehension Unit risked their lives to get this guy in custody before he shot or killed somebody else. This creep endangered the lives of other citizens and tried to evade capture. This suspect was the benefactor of a watered down prosecution in exchange for a plea bargain.

He's now exposed to more than 14 years if convicted on all charges. As I do with many of these noteworthy cases, I will follow it through the court process and report back to the public on the final disposition, including the name of the sentencing judge."

Please reference this link to a story showing even the Chicago interim Police Superintendent's position in line with Sheriff Clarke's: *'Chicago's grim murder trend blamed on light sentencing, misguided reforms'* :

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/04/11/chicagos-grim-murder-trend-blamed-on-light-sentencing-misguided-reforms.html>

Detectives of the Apprehension Unit, conducting surveillance at that location, spotted Hardin in a stolen vehicle taken in mid-March. Hardin fled from the scene, striking an unmarked squad on the rear driver's side. He traveled southbound on 12th Street, turned eastbound on North Avenue, increasing his speed above 60 MPH and running red lights.

Hardin entered the freeway southbound on I-43, swerving onto the embankment to pass stopped cars on the ramp. Detectives boxed in the vehicle and took him into custody at gunpoint with the assistance of a Sheriff's Office K9.

The MCSO Apprehension Unit had been seeking Hardin since receiving notification from the HOC on Thursday, March 31 at 1:05 a.m.

The Sheriff's Office Apprehension unit found that Hardin had removed and discarded his GPS bracelet on Thursday and was being sought by MCSO, US Marshals and Milwaukee Police in connection to a double shooting that occurred Thursday night in Milwaukee. That investigation is being conducted by the Milwaukee Police Department.

Hardin was sentenced to the HOC on November 16, 2015, for two class G felonies: Theft, and 2nd-Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, the latter dismissed and read-in to the case by Judge William S. Pocan. Hardin was to serve a total of four years in Wisconsin State Prison - two years confinement and two years extended supervision. That sentence was stayed in favor of 30 months probation and 8 months confinement at the HOC with release under Huber privileges for work and school.

Hardin will now face new charges with the Sheriff's Office for:

346.04, Fleeing from Officer, as a Class I Felony (3 years 6 months exposure)
941.30, Recklessly Endangering Safety, as a Class G felony (10 years exposure)
946.41, Resisting Officer, as a Class A misdemeanor (9 months exposure)

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Matthew Hardin's Convictions

2013 Milwaukee County Case Number 2013CF002668, Possession of Narcotic Drugs, a class I felony and Retail Theft, a class A misdemeanor, Wisconsin Statutes 943.50(1m)(d).

2010 Milwaukee County Case Number 2010CF000372, Burglary, a class F felony.

Additional Arrests

2015, Milwaukee, Drive or Operate Vehicle W/O Consent & Resisting/Obstructing (No Processed)

2013, Milwaukee, Bail Jumping & Possession of THC (No Processed)

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