



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Berry Creek Man Pleads as Charged to South Oroville Shooting

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey announced a Berry Creek man yesterday admitted to an August 28, 2020 shooting in Oroville and unlawful possession of a firearm. He also pled to separate charges stemming from a 12-mile vehicle pursuit on September 6, 2020.

Jesse Dean Sweeney Jr., 22, plead as charged in Butte County Superior Court to Discharge of a Firearm with Gross Negligence, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, Fleeing a Pursuing Peace Officer's Motor Vehicle while Driving Recklessly, and Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol.

Ramsey said on August 28, 2020, shots were reported to have been heard in the area of Spencer and Mesa Avenue in south Oroville. More shots were later reported on D Street. When officers arrived at these locations, they spotted a speeding black sedan believed to be involved with the shooting. When officers attempted to stop the sedan, it failed to yield resulting in a 2.2-mile long pursuit through the residential streets of Oroville. The pursuing officers briefly lost sight of the sedan before finding it abandoned at the intersection of Bird and 6th Street. Witnesses in the area reported seeing a female exit the driver's seat.

The female driver was located and arrested on Bird Street. She presently faces charges of Fleeing a Pursuing Peace Officer's Motor Vehicle and Accessory After the Fact. Sweeney and another male were found hiding in the same area of Bird Street. Near Sweeney in yard, officers located a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun. Back at the scene of the shooting, officers found several 9 mm spent casings.

Oroville Police officers released Sweeney and the other man pending further investigation. Luckily, Ramsey said, no one was injured in the shooting. However a neighborhood vehicle was found to have a bullet hole in it. Officers then sought the advice of the District Attorney's Office. Ramsey said his office listened to the officers and directed them to seek a warrant for Sweeney's arrest, which was signed by a local judge.

On September 6, 2020, a State Parks officer saw Sweeney driving a vehicle in the Oroville area on Olive Highway near Medley Lane. When the officer tried to stop the vehicle, Sweeney failed to yield resulting in a 12-mile pursuit. The pursuit ended when the vehicle collided into a tree at the intersection of Pam R Lane and Bald Rock Road. When officers made contact with Sweeney, they determined Sweeney was under the influence of alcohol.

Sweeney faces up to 4 years and 4 months state prison when he is sentenced on November 4, 2020. He remains in custody. His male co-defendant also faces charges of Discharge of a Firearm with Gross Negligence and Possession of a Firearm by a Felon. A preliminary hearing for him is set for October 21, 2020. Discharge of a Firearm with Gross Negligence is a “strike” in California.

