

Plainfield Man Convicted

A Plainfield man was convicted on several charges earlier today, including 2nd Degree eluding, 3rd Degree aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and 4th Degree Aggravated Assault on a police officer.

Eugene Lawton DOB: 8/20/1965 was found guilty following a bench trial before Superior Court Judge Stuart Peim, said Assistant Prosecutor Ann Marie Gibbons who prosecuted the case.

According to the investigation, Lawton was driving with a suspended license on Rt. 78 West in Berkeley Heights on July 16, 2010 when a New Jersey State Trooper attempted to pull him over. Lawton gave chase through five towns in both Union and Somerset Counties, said Gibbons. At one point in the pursuit, he drove his vehicle at a high rate of speed towards a trooper who was on foot. The chase ended after police lost sight of Lawton's vehicle. He was arrested a day later by the New Jersey State Police.

Lawton faces up to 20 years in prison when he is sentenced on December 16, 2011.