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Felon on Probation Pleads to Shooting from Vehicle

On November 19, 2025, Austin Snowten, age 24, pled guilty to Discharging a Weapon into an Occupied Vehicle in Motion and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. Judge Ricardo Jensen sentenced Snowten to 50-72 months in prison.

On June 2, 2025, officers with the Wilmington Police Department responded to King's Tobacco & Vape, located at 1515 Dawson Street, regarding a hit and run and shots fired call. Officers on scene were able to recover surveillance footage, which showed a U-Haul exiting the business's parking lot when a Suburban SUV pulls into the parking lot. A shot was fired from the driver's window of the Suburban, striking the U-Haul. After the shot was fired, the U-Haul fled the scene and collided with another vehicle on Dawson Street and the Suburban fled the scene on S. 16th Street.

A short time later, officers located the U-Haul unoccupied but found blood and a projectile inside. Detectives were notified that an individual was brought to the hospital with a gunshot wound to his hand and responded to the hospital to interview him. During the interview, he stated that he was driving the U-Haul and was leaving King's Tobacco & Vape when a tan in color vehicle entered the parking lot and fired a shot, striking him inside the vehicle. Officers also located the Suburban that was involved in the shooting and determined that Austin Snowten was driving the vehicle. Snowten used his mother's gun during the shooting. Detectives recovered the weapon in Wallace, North Carolina.

At the time of the offense, Snowten was a convicted felon and was on supervised probation for a 2023 conviction for discharging a weapon into occupied property out of Columbus County.



Austin Snowten