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### **Vaughan Receives Lengthy Prison Sentence for Shooting at Police Near UNCW**

A local man will serve the next 41.8 to 57.3 years in prison after a four-day jury trial in New Hanover County. Edwin Vaughan, age 70, was found guilty on Thursday of Attempted Murder, two counts of Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer with a Firearm, one count of Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill, three counts of Discharging a Firearm into an Occupied Vehicle in Operation and several related misdemeanor offenses. Judge Quintin McGee presided over the trial and sentenced Vaughan shortly after the jury returned with their verdict.

On Friday, January 26, 2024, around 10:30 a.m., officers were dispatched to the corner of College Road and Randall Parkway in reference to a caller's complaint about a panhandler on the median. When they arrived, officers observed Vaughan on the median and eventually asked him to move to the sidewalk. They were familiar with Vaughan due to his violent behavior towards law enforcement in the past, including a 2021 incident in which he pointed a gun at an officer at the same intersection. Vaughan refused to leave the median to speak with officers and began threatening to kill them. He called 911 and continued his threats, admitting that he was armed. Attempts were made to shut down lanes of heavy traffic during the standoff before Vaughan grabbed his bag and ran across College Road to a nearby gas station. Several officers and a Sheriff's deputy followed him on foot.

When he reached the BP station at 425 South College Road, Vaughan pointed his gun at the deputy, who took cover beside a vehicle that was parked at a nearby air pump. He then turned his gun on a Wilmington Police Department sergeant who was arriving in his patrol car. Vaughan fired five shots at the sergeant, three of which penetrated the vehicle. The officer was able to crawl out of the car and took cover behind it. Vaughan thereafter refused to drop his gun and started to flee again before the sergeant fired twice at him causing Vaughan to fall to the ground. While Vaughan was not injured, officers were able to place him under arrest. Investigators later discovered that one of Vaughan's errant shots traveled across College Road and into the window of a costume store that was scheduled to open minutes later.

Body cameras worn by the responding officers, as well as store surveillance videos in the area, played a vital role in the trial.

“This incident started as a call regarding an aggressive panhandler and resulted in getting a dangerous person off the street,” said District Attorney Jason W. Smith. “This defendant, who imperiled the safety of the responding officers and that of nearby motorists, pedestrians, and shoppers on a busy corridor of our community, was held accountable for his actions today. The law enforcement officers who were there that showed tremendous bravery and were able to subdue Vaughan before he caused additional harm. I also wish to commend those who investigated this incident and the prosecutorial team that presented this case to the jury.”



Edwin Leroy Vaughan  
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