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PRESS RELEASE

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ALEX JAMES JOE SENTENCED TO 21 ACTIVE YEARS IN PRISON FOR MARCH 13, 2018 CARJACKING, ROBBERY, USE OF A FIREARM, AND CREDIT CARD THEFT

On December 12, 2018 and after pleas of guilty to all charges, Lynchburg Circuit Court Judge R. Edwin Burnette, Jr. sentenced the defendant to a total of 58 years with 37 years suspended resulting in 21 years of active incarceration.

Joe's convictions stemmed out of the events of March 13, 2018 when a 76-year-old female Lynchburg resident was approached outside of the Food Lion on Florida Ave by then 18-year-old Alex James Joe, a 17-year-old female, and a 2-year-old child around 9:30 p.m. The couple asked the victim for a ride and the victim agreed to drive them to the Greater Brookeville Church further down Florida Ave. When they arrived at the church, Joe, who sat in the front passenger seat, produced a handgun and pointed it at the victim's waist. The victim attempted to hand Joe her purse; however, Joe told her to leave the purse. The victim got out of the car. Joe slid into the driver's seat where he, the juvenile female and child left in the victim's car and headed in the direction of Campbell Ave. Included in the victim's purse that was stolen along with her car were her credit card and driver's license.

Lynchburg Police Department detectives received information from Roanoke City Police 3 ½ hours after the Lynchburg carjacking and robbery that a different woman in downtown Roanoke, VA reported a robbery by a young black male and female in a car that matched the type of car stolen from the 76-year-old Lynchburg victim. The Lynchburg victim's car was found by the Roanoke City Police parked behind the Rodeway Inn Motel in Roanoke. Joe, the juvenile female, and the child were found in one of the hotel rooms.

Joe was interviewed by Detective Todd Barley of the Lynchburg Police Department along with Officer Preston Hill of the Roanoke City Police. After he was read his Miranda warnings, Joe admitted to the carjacking that occurred in Lynchburg. He said he used the stolen credit card to purchase gas in Bonsack, VA just outside of Roanoke.

Alex James Joe was sentenced as follows for his crimes: on the charge of Carjacking, 25 years with 19 years suspended; on the charge of Robbery, 20 years with 14 years suspended; on the

charge of Use of a Firearm during the Commission of a Carjacking, 3 years of mandatory minimum time; on the charge of Use of a Firearm During the Commission of a Robbery – Second or Subsequent Offense, 5 years of mandatory minimum time; and on the charge of Credit Card Theft 5 years with 4 years suspended. As conditions of his suspended sentences, Joe must submit to 24 months of supervised probation upon his release, 40 years of good behavior, pay restitution to the victim through the court, and have no contact with the victim.

This case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Janell Johnson. Alex James Joe was represented by E. Gordon Peters, Esq.

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