



# Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office

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**Orvis L. Campbell**  
Sheriff

**For Immediate Release January 30, 2023, 12:53 pm**

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## Media Release

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### **Update on Narcotics Investigation Involving William H. Gibbs that began in May of 2021**

A major drug trafficker in multiple counties was sentenced as a result of an investigation involving the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office, LEAD Drug Task Force, New Philadelphia Police Department, Akron Police Department Narcotics Detectives, and Canton Police Department Detectives. Detective Cole Morris with the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office and an Agent with the LEAD Drug Task Force, was the lead investigator in this case.

On May 11, 2021, during a narcotic-related investigation, a search warrant was executed on a residence on 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW in New Philadelphia. A large amount of narcotics, drug paraphernalia, and 14 firearms (4 of which were entered as stolen at the time) were seized during the execution of the search warrant. On April 1, 2022, the Grand Jury indicted Gibbs on 11 counts which included two Major Drug Offender (MDO) specifications as a result of the search warrant that was executed at his residence.

On July 20, 2021, Gibbs was arrested during a traffic stop on an outstanding warrant for his arrest. During a search of Gibbs, a small quantity of narcotics was located on him. During a search of his vehicle, an area on the front dash was located that appeared to have been tampered with. After further investigation of the front dash area, a hidden compartment was located. Within the hidden compartment, a firearm was located along with drug paraphernalia and drug residue. Additional narcotics were also located within the vehicle. After Gibbs was transported to the Tuscarawas County Jail, the Jail Sergeant located additional narcotics that Gibbs was trying to conceal in his groin area after he was booked into the Jail. On February 18, 2022, William H. Gibbs was indicted on 9 counts by the Grand Jury as a result of the traffic stop.

On January 18, 2023, William H. Gibbs was sentenced by Tuscarawas County Common Pleas Judge Ernest for the July 20, 2021, incident. Judge Ernest sentenced Gibbs to serve 14 years in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

On January 23, 2023, William H. Gibbs was sentenced by Tuscarawas County Common Pleas Judge Thomakos for the May 11, 2021 incident. Judge Thomakos sentenced Gibbs to serve 11 years to 16½ years in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

Both of the incarceration terms Gibbs received in Tuscarawas County will be served concurrently with Stark County Case 2021 CR 1138 and Summit County Case CR 2021-06-1972 as Gibbs was sentenced in November of 2022 for drug-related charges in Stark and Summit Counties. The Stark County Charges also involved an incident where Gibbs was alleged to have shot another person with a firearm.

Considering all of the information that we received on Mr. Gibbs in a very short amount of time, we considered him a serious danger to the community.

I commend Detective Cole Morris on his detailed work on this case along with the other investigators involved.

I am proud that Tuscarawas County Judges issued the most serious sentences on this individual who displayed dangerous and violent behaviors in at least three Counties.

Sheriff Orvis L. Campbell