

## Clash with state troopers gets man eight years

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BY KEITH EPPS

A man who injured a state trooper and caused more than \$20,000 worth of damage to police cruisers was ordered yesterday to serve eight years in prison.

Hamilton Hall Swart III, 50, of Catlett pleaded guilty in Fredericksburg Circuit Court to attempted capital murder, three counts of assault on a police officer and felony driving while intoxicated.

He was sentenced to a total of 70 years in prison with all but eight suspended. Several other charges were dropped.

According to the evidence presented by prosecutor Travis Bird, Trooper Dan Senters was on routine patrol late Dec. 4 when he stopped a vehicle driven by Swart for having a defective taillight.

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The car pulled into a parking lot on Sophia Street with Senters behind it, but took off as the trooper approached.

Swart drove across the Chatham Bridge into Stafford County, traveling between 60 and 80 mph on State Route 3.

Two more troopers were involved in the pursuit as it reached the Blue and Gray Parkway. The pursuit went back into the city and onto Lafayette Boulevard toward Spotsylvania County.

A fourth trooper was heading north on Lafayette to assist when Swart drove toward him. That trooper went into the southbound lane in an attempt to avoid a collision, Bird said, but was struck head-on. He was not seriously injured.

Swart also rammed several cruisers and ran Trooper J.J. Keen into a ditch. Keen suffered injuries that caused him to miss time from work.

Bird said that Swart ran several red lights and stop signs during the pursuit and also struck a brand new BMW that was parked in Hillcrest subdivision.

Bird said Swart, who had 25 prior criminal convictions, physically resisted arrest once his vehicle was finally stopped and had to be forcefully taken into custody.

Swart is still facing the possibility of having 17 years reinstated from previously suspended sentences in Prince William.

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