ALERT TOP STORY

## Truck driver found guilty for low-speed chase in Spotsy

## **Keith Epps**

Feb 25, 2022

A man who led Spotsylvania County deputies on a low-speed chase that ended in a lengthy standoff three years ago was convicted of two felony offenses Thursday in Spotsylvania Circuit Court.

Muni M. Hussein, 55, of New York, was found guilty by a jury of felony eluding and possession of methamphetamine. He was also convicted of DUI and several traffic offenses.

According to court records and the evidence presented by prosecutor Stephanie Fitzgerald, Deputy Y. Lecarpentier went to the 3200 block of Partlow Road on Jan. 2, 2019, in response to a call about a tractortrailer sitting in the roadway.



Hussein

The truck's hazard lights were not on and there were no flares to alert other drivers on the twolane road. Lecarpentier approached the driver and was told that he was fine and that his truck had broken down.

The deputy told him she would put flares out to alert other traffic and asked him to turn on his hazard lights. She said Hussein emphatically said "No" and his behavior became "inexplicably erratic and aggressive," court records state.

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This led the deputy to believe the driver was either under the influence of something or having a

psychotic episode. When she asked for his license, the driver rolled up his window, locked the

door and began driving north on Partlow Road.

Over the next 80 minutes, Hussein drove 18 miles through the county at speeds ranging from 9

to 15 mph. Multiple deputies were involved in the pursuit, during which the suspect frequently

swerved over the double yellow lines.

He kept going even after deputies flattened most of his tires with deflation devices. His tractor-

trailer finally jackknifed and stopped in the area of Piney Branch and Catharpin roads. He then

went into the cab of the vehicle, closed the curtain and refused to talk to police for several

hours.

SWAT team members finally entered the truck and took Hussein into custody. A small amount

of methamphetamine was recovered, and tests showed the drug was also in Hussein's system.

Defense attorney Jim Ilijevich tried to get the eluding charge reduced to a misdemeanor and

argued that the methamphetamine could have been consumed after Hussein had stopped

driving, which would have negated the DUI charge.

Hussein is scheduled to be sentenced May 16.

Keith Epps: 540/374-5404

kepps@freelancestar.com

By Keith Epps

Covers crime for Fredericksburg region