

Bond quickly denied for man charged in Spotsylvania police dog shooting

Keith Epps

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Judge Ricardo Rigual took about two seconds Tuesday to deny a request for bond for a man accused of shooting a police dog and firing at two Spotsylvania County deputies during a wild incident last year.

Joseph Elliott Conway, 34, is charged with 13 felony offenses, including two counts of attempted capital murder and multiple weapons and drug charges. His trial in Spotsylvania Circuit Court is now scheduled for June 8-9.

Defense attorneys Wendy Harris and Jenna Nacht Tuesday asked Rigual for a bond so that Conway could live with his mother and son in King George until his trial. Harris said Conway has lifelong ties to the area and would not be a flight risk.

Commonwealth's Attorney Travis Bird said Conway represents a clear danger to the community and was free on bond at the time of his violent actions on Oct. 2. He was also in possession of a large amount of drugs, Bird said, and still had a weapon when he was arrested a few days later at a Richmond motel.

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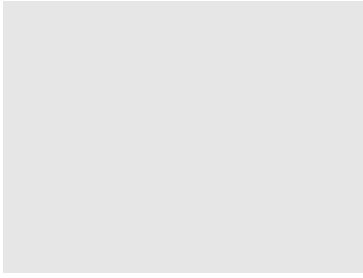
"This is one of the last people who should be considered for a bond," Bird said.

The October shootout started with what appeared to be a routine traffic stop in the Sheetz parking lot off Lafayette Boulevard in Spotsylvania. The driver was taken into custody after police learned that he was wanted.

Conway was a passenger in the car and was not wanted, police said. But he got into a scuffle with deputies at the scene and later sprinted away with police dog "Dux" in pursuit.

Police said Conway shot Dux and fired at two other deputies but did not hit them. Police returned fire and Conway had a leg wound when he was arrested a couple of days later.

Dux was seriously injured but has recovered and is back on duty with the Sheriff's Office.



Conway

Keith Epps: 540/374-5404

kepps@freelancestar.com

By Keith Epps

Covers crime for Fredericksburg region
