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MAN WITH HISTORY OF UNLICENSED DRIVING GETS 7 YEARS FOR DUI

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An Aurora man with a long history of moving violations, including more than two dozen citations for unlicensed driving, has been sentenced to prison for DUI.

Paul H. Woodard, 35 (d.o.b. 10-10-1976), LKA of the 8100 block of South Vincennes Avenue, Chicago, was sentenced today by Associate Judge Marmarie J. Kostelny to seven years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

On Feb. 23, 2012, Woodard pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated driving while license revoked, a Class 2 felony, and one count of aggravated DUI, a Class 4 felony. Judge Kostelny accepted the plea.

On June 2, 2011, Montgomery police saw a gold Chrysler sedan driven by Woodard traveling at 44 mph in a posted 30 mph zone in the 1300 block of Douglas Avenue. The Montgomery officer pursued Woodard's vehicle as it continued along several side streets, eventually stopping in a driveway in the 1200 block of Fourth Street. Woodard exited the vehicle and fled on foot before he was captured about two blocks away. On Woodard, officers noted a strong odor of alcohol and slurred speech. In Woodard's car officers found an open container of an alcoholic beverage and an unopened container of an alcoholic beverage.

Woodard has been cited 25 times since 1995 for driving on a revoked or suspended license, although the vast majority of the offenses have been since 1999. In addition, Woodard has a lengthy criminal background that includes dozens of driving related offenses, as well as felony convictions for weapons, narcotics and battery. Woodard has served eight separate terms in IDOC since 1995.

Because of the number of prior arrests, including a prior DUI conviction, Woodard was eligible for enhanced sentencing.

According to Illinois law, Woodard is eligible for day-for-day sentencing. He was given credit for at least 315 days served in the Kane County jail, where he had been held on \$75,000 bail.

The case was prosecuted by Kane County Assistant State's Attorney Andrew Whitfield.