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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAN FOUND GUILTY OF ARMED TRAFFICKING, SALE OF COCAINE

State Attorney Melissa Nelson announces that a Duval County jury found Jacari Lee O'Neal guilty of Trafficking in Substituted Cathinones while Armed with a Firearm, and Sale, Manufacture, or Delivery of Cocaine. With the verdict, O'Neal faces up to life with a 10-year mandatory minimum in Florida State Prison. The Honorable Lindsay Tygart will sentence O'Neal at a later date.

On June 24, 2023, undercover Jacksonville Sheriff's Office detectives set up a drug buy with O'Neal using a phone number previously associated with a co-suspect. O'Neal conducted the sale at a Detroit Avenue apartment. During this sale, O'Neal talked about guns and retrieved a pistol. This transaction was captured on an audio recording. Detectives used this sale to further investigate O'Neal through a search warrant. On August 8, 2023, this search warrant was executed at the Detroit Apartment, where the pistol that was utilized on the June 24th day was recovered in O'Neal's bedroom.

The case was investigated by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Kierstyn Jennings and Trinity Turinetti.