

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 20, 2021 Press Release from Austin County District Attorney's Office:**

An Austin County jury found Myhaa Underwood, formerly of Houston, guilty of Tampering with Evidence before District Judge Jeff Steinhauser on September 15, 2021.

The jury sentenced Underwood, 28, to 6 years in prison and a \$4,000.00 fine, but probated the prison sentence.

Judge Steinhauser sentenced Underwood to 6 years' probation in accordance with the jury verdict, along with the fine, court costs, and reimbursement to Austin County and the State of Texas for evidence testing and trial expenses.

Underwood was charged with concealing marijuana during a 2018 traffic stop in Sealy. The jury deliberated approximately 50 minutes before returning a conviction.

Underwood had no prior convictions. The jury deliberated approximately 50 minutes before recommending probation.

Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Nystrom presented the State's case along with First Assistant District Attorney Brandy Robinson, and legal assistant Lisa Tobola.

Houston Defense Attorney Don Hecker presented the defense.

Jury selection was held at Christian City Fellowship between Sealy and Bellville on Monday to provide for proper spacing and Covid-related precautions.

District Attorney Travis Koehn stated, "The Texas Supreme Court continues to require all courts to follow Covid-19 social distancing requirements in jury trials."

"I'm proud of my staff's efforts and the jurors' willingness to resume trials under these circumstances, and thankful to Christian City Fellowship for continuing to allow us to use their facilities so that we can keep justice moving in Austin County," Koehn added.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to resolve older cases now that trials have resumed," Assistant District Attorney Nystrom stated.

"The city of Sealy can be proud of the efficiency and competency of their police officers in their efforts to keep drugs off our streets."