

**TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

**Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter**

PAROLE UPDATE: May 19, 2026

## **Repeat violent offender on parole does it again and receives the maximum sentence from judge**



Dennis L. Brainard, 49, of Conneaut, was sentenced to a consecutive term of 72 months in prison by Judge Ronald J. Rice, about a week after a Trumbull County jury found him guilty of charges of failure to comply with signal or order of police officer and aggravated menacing.

Judge Rice noted the defendant's long criminal history and the fact he committed the crimes while on parole in sentencing him to one year for the violation consecutive to the maximum five years for the fleeing from police offense.

"You are the poster child for why they increased the penalty for this kind of crime to 60 months," the judge told Brainard, noting his previous three failure-to-comply offenses. Brainard's record also included numerous assaults and drug offenses, including the illegal manufacturing of marijuana.

The jurors on Monday, May 11 spent about 40 minutes of deliberation before returning the guilty verdicts.

The case involved Brainard pulling a gun on an off-duty Ashtabula police officer on a Trumbull County roadway after the off-duty officer stopped to check on Brainard's disabled vehicle. The Nov. 3, 2025, incident then turned into a police chase with Brainard's vehicle trying to elude a Trumbull County sheriff deputy. The chase ended in a corn field when Brainard ditched the vehicle and fled on foot before he was spotted by a drone. Assistant Prosecutor Michael Burnett called three witnesses to the stand, including the off-duty officer, the sheriff deputy and the drone operator from the county's Emergency Management Agency. After sentencing, Burnett adds that "this guy is one of too many revolving-door criminals that I see."

For more information, contact Guy M. Vogrin, investigator/public information officer for the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office at 330-675-2485.