

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

Repeat violent offender newsletter

News release: Aug. 1, 2025

Prosecutor's Office appeals ruling in suppression hearing



On April 2, 2025, Assistant Prosecutor Diane Barber had a hearing before Judge Sean J. O'Brien where defendant Brandon Thomas had filed a motion to suppress evidence which he alleged was illegally seized from him during a Liberty police traffic stop which occurred in December 2023.

On July 28, 2025, Judge O'Brien issued a ruling in favor of the defense making the evidence inadmissible. Because of this ruling, the State would not be able to go forward with its case.

As a result, on Aug. 1, 2025, the State filed a Notice of Appeal, respectfully objecting to the judge's ruling. Liberty police officers support the prosecutor's decision to appeal.

Thomas, 41, of Youngstown, photo above left, was indicted on Dec. 6, 2023, with one count of aggravated possession of drugs (f1) with specification of forfeiture of \$3,471, which was seized during the traffic stop; one count of having weapons while under disability (f3); one count of carrying concealed weapons (f4); one count of improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle (f4); one count of possession of cocaine (f4) with specification of forfeiture; and one count of aggravated possession of drugs (f5) with specification of forfeiture.

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