PINAL COUNTY ATTORNEY BRAD MILLER

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Pinal County Attorney Announces Lengthy Prison Sentence for Serial "Snowbird" Burglar Targeting Seniors

Florence, AZ — Today, Pinal County Attorney Brad Miller announced that Joel Adam Garvin, age 40, has been sentenced to a total of **25 years** in the Arizona Department of Corrections following convictions on multiple felony counts of burglary and auto theft charges. The sentence, handed down by Judge Harris in Pinal County Superior Court, follows a string of residential and commercial burglaries that **terrorized seniors** across the northwest portion of Pinal County, primarily in the cities of Maricopa and Casa Grande between August 23, 2023 and November 11, 2024.

Garvin was charged with multiple felonies for victimizing over nineteen people, burglarizing nine residences, stealing seven vehicles and is responsible for taking and damaging over $170,000 worth of property. For these crimes, Garvin pled guilty to eight felony offenses:

- Six Counts of Residential Burglary, all class 3 felonies and;
- Two Counts of Theft, both class 2 felonies.

Prosecutor Cameron Patt said, "After entering the homes of multiple victims, the defendant didn't just steal property, he took away the sense of security that many people have in their own homes. This sentence is a resounding message of deterrence and reflection of the County Attorney's commitment to serve the community honorably by imposing a just and deserved punishment upon those that harm members of our community."

Evidence in this case revealed a calculated pattern of break-ins. These burglaries had the consistent theme of targeting senior citizens that were "snowbirds." Many of the victims in this case were senior citizens and some were in the midwest or on vacation when the defendant burglarized their homes. Most of these houses had a vehicle parked in the garage and the defendant located a spare car key within the house. In many of these offenses, it appears that the defendant loaded the victim's vehicle with the property he was stealing. "This sentence reflects the serious harm that the defendant inflicted on our community and the victims," said County Attorney Miller. **"Burglaries are not just property crimes — they are deeply personal violations of safety and trust.** We are grateful to the victims who came forward, the investigators who worked tirelessly, and prosecutor Cameron Patt who delivered justice."

The case was built through strong collaboration between the **Casa Grande and Maricopa Police Departments.** The suspect was unknown for a period of time until DNA results came back on blood samples that the defendant left behind on safes and windows he broke into. Law enforcement identified the suspect, but could not locate him until he committed his final burglary on November 11, 2024. The victim in this case received an alert from his motion sensor cameras inside of his residence and realized someone had broken into his home and was ransacking his property. The defendant has been in custody since November 11, 2024. Investigators were able to link the crimes through forensic evidence, surveillance footage, and witness testimony.

County Attorney Miller emphasized the importance of community awareness and cooperation in preventing and solving these crimes. "One of the best tools we have against burglary and similar crimes is a connected neighborhood," said Miller. "I encourage everyone to get to know their neighbors — exchange contact information, look out for each other's homes, and report suspicious behavior. **A well-informed and watchful community is a strong deterrent to criminal activity.** Residents are also encouraged to utilize neighborhood watch programs, invest in home security measures such as Ring doorbell cameras, and attend any local public safety forums or events hosted by law enforcement and this office. This sentence serves as a strong message that those who violate the safety of our homes and neighborhoods will be held accountable under the law."

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The Pinal County Attorney's Office is dedicated to prosecuting criminals, promoting justice, to ensure public safety throughout the county. Led by Brad Miller, a seasoned prosecutor with over 17 years of experience, the office is defined by its commitment to integrity and excellence. Brad Miller brings a distinguished record of public service to the role, including his tenure as a prosecutor in the Sex Crimes Bureau of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office and his service as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. With a staff of over 180 professionals, the office prosecutes more than 2,500 felonies and 1,000 misdemeanors annually and provides over 25,000 services to crime victims, standing as the cornerstone of justice for Pinal County.