

City man gets jail time for assault

Ordered to write apology for almost running over officers

By Dionne Waugh
dwaugh@newsadvance.com
(434) 385-5537

A Lynchburg man who nearly ran over two city police officers will serve 11 months in jail and must perform 100 hours of community service.

But Circuit Judge Leyburn Mosby added one more requirement Friday for 20-year-old Blake Thomas Roach.

"Before you leave jail, I want you to write a letter to both officers apologizing to them for your conduct and to prove your sincerity," he said. "They put their lives on the line for the people of Lynchburg and you almost took theirs and they almost took yours."

Mosby said Roach's apology and remorse Friday were key factors in his decision.

"(Your attorney) said this was a life-changing experience for you," Mosby said. "I hope so, because I'm going to give you another opportunity. It will be your last as far as I'm concerned."

Roach, who was 19 at the time of the crime last year, was convicted in December of assault and battery against a law enforcement officer and eluding police.

The crime occurred March 25, 2005, at the International House of Pancakes after vice and narcotics officers set up a marijuana drug buy.

When investigators attempted to arrest Roach, who knew three of the four officers, he got in his car, locked the doors and started the engine of the Chevy Malibu.

Officers surrounded the car and ordered Roach out, but he ignored them, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee said in December.

Roach appeared to reach under