

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

DANNY HASTINGS PITCHER,
Appellant,
vs.
THE STATE OF NEVADA,
Respondent.

No. 46256

FILED

FEB 23 2006

ORDER OF AFFIRMANCE

JANETTE M. BLOOM
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY *J. Richard*
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

This is an appeal from a judgment of conviction, pursuant to a guilty plea, of one count of possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Second Judicial District Court, Washoe County; Janet J. Berry, Judge. The district court sentenced appellant Danny Hastings Pitcher to serve a prison term of 48-120 months and ordered him to pay \$2,160.80 in restitution.

Pitcher's sole contention on appeal is that the district court abused its discretion at sentencing by not granting him probation. Pitcher claims that probation would be more appropriate than a term of incarceration because with structured probation, including participation in a long-term drug and mental health treatment program, he would be more likely "to be able to . . . adapt to the community and conform to its rules of behavior." Citing to the dissents in Tanksley v. State¹ and Sims v. State² for support, Pitcher argues that this court should review the sentence imposed by the district court to determine whether justice was done. We conclude that Pitcher's contention is without merit.

¹113 Nev. 844, 852, 944 P.2d 240, 245 (1997) (Rose, J., dissenting).

²107 Nev. 438, 441, 814 P.2d 63, 65 (1991) (Rose, J., dissenting).

The Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution does not require strict proportionality between crime and sentence, but forbids only an extreme sentence that is grossly disproportionate to the crime.³ This court has consistently afforded the district court wide discretion in its sentencing decision.⁴ The district court's discretion, however, is not limitless.⁵ Nevertheless, we will refrain from interfering with the sentence imposed "[s]o long as the record does not demonstrate prejudice resulting from consideration of information or accusations founded on facts supported only by impalpable or highly suspect evidence."⁶ Despite its severity, a sentence within the statutory limits is not cruel and unusual punishment where the statute itself is constitutional, and the sentence is not so unreasonably disproportionate to the crime as to shock the conscience.⁷

In the instant case, Pitcher does not allege that the district court relied on impalpable or highly suspect evidence or that the relevant sentencing statute is unconstitutional. In fact, the sentence imposed by the district court was within the parameters provided by the relevant statute.⁸ Further, in exchange for Pitcher's guilty plea, the State agreed

³Harmelin v. Michigan, 501 U.S. 957, 1000-01 (1991) (plurality opinion).

⁴Houk v. State, 103 Nev. 659, 747 P.2d 1376 (1987).

⁵Parrish v. State, 116 Nev. 982, 989, 12 P.3d 953, 957 (2000).

⁶Silks v. State, 92 Nev. 91, 94, 545 P.2d 1159, 1161 (1976).

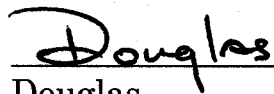
⁷Allred v. State, 120 Nev. 410, 420, 92 P.3d 1246, 1253 (2004).

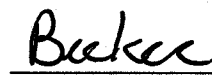
⁸See NRS 205.273(4) (category B felony punishable by a prison term of 1-10 years and a fine of not more than \$10,000.00).

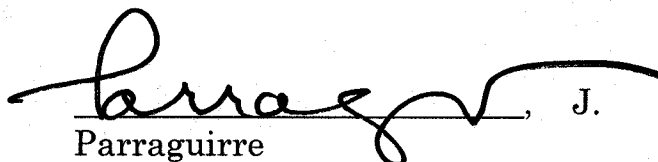
to dismiss all other criminal charges and not seek habitual criminal adjudication, despite his extensive criminal history including eight prior felony convictions. And finally, we note that the granting of probation is discretionary.⁹ Therefore, based on all of the above, we conclude that the district court did not abuse its discretion at sentencing by imposing a term of incarceration.

Having considered Pitcher's contention and concluded that it is without merit, we

ORDER the judgment of conviction AFFIRMED.


_____, J.
Douglas


_____, J.
Becker


_____, J.
Parraguirre

cc: Hon. Janet J. Berry, District Judge
Washoe County Public Defender
Attorney General George Chanos/Carson City
Washoe County District Attorney Richard A. Gammick
Washoe District Court Clerk

⁹See NRS 176A.100(1)(c).