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Guilty verdict returned in Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Elimination Project trial

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced 67-year-old Jihad Eldeen Moore Jr. was found guilty of two counts of rape in the first degree and one count of sodomy in the first degree stemming from an incident that happened on June 14, 1996.

Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Thomas M. Ryan presided over the trial, which started on October 29, 2018. He announced his verdict on October 31, 2018.

At trial, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office presented evidence that showed this stranger-on-stranger incident occurred in Tom McCall Waterfront Park in downtown Portland.

"He deliberately targeted her, lured her to an isolated area and once she was seated on the ground, his assault was immediate and brutal," Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Tara Gardner said during closing arguments. "He told [the victim] to walk three paces and...as she walked those three paces, she thought [the defendant] was going to shoot her."

Evidence presented at trial showed that the victim made a report to medical professional and law enforcement on June 14, 1996.

In 2015, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office sought, and was awarded, a grant from the [District Attorney's Office of New York](#) ("DANY Grant") to test previously untested sexual assault kits.

The victim's sexual assault kit was one of those submitted to a private lab in Utah for testing under the [DANY Grant](#). After receiving the results from the [Oregon State Police Crime Laboratory](#) in November 2017, the Portland Police Bureau's [Sexual Assault Kit Initiative \(SAKI\)](#) unit re-opened the investigation.

The PPB SAKI workgroup continues to advocate and diligently investigate results from SAFE kits that have been tested under the DANY Grant.

Moore is scheduled to be sentenced on December 14, 2018 at 9 a.m. before Judge Ryan.

The victim in this case does not wish to be contacted by members of the media and is requesting privacy. However, upon learning of the guilty verdict, she released the following statement and requested that the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office distribute it to the public.

"I never thought this day would come. It would have been better for everyone had the kit been tested years ago. It is hard to re-live this so many years later, but justice is finally served. It certainly lets others know that no matter how long it has been, you have to own your actions and pay for what you have done. I do feel sorry for Mr. Moore's family and mine. This has been hard on all of us, but I am happy to have closure and to help others have the confidence to report rapes and/or sexual abuse."

Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Elimination Project

In 2015, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill, along with the Portland Police Bureau, Gresham Police Department, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon State Police Forensic Laboratory collaboratively initiated a project to process thousands of untested Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) kits in Multnomah, Marion and Lane counties.

District Attorney Underhill and others quickly identified funding from the [New York County District Attorney's Office \(DANY\)](#) and worked collectively with the Portland Police Bureau's Sex Crimes Unit after the City of Portland received a grant from [U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance's \(BJA\) Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant Program](#).

[DANY awarded](#) the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office a total of \$1,995,453 in September 2015. Using those funds, a coordinated effort involving local law enforcement and the Oregon State Police was launched to send SAFE kits, dated 2014 or older from Multnomah, Lane and Marion counties, to a private lab in Utah for testing.

In early 2018, an additional 302 SAFE kits from 13 other Oregon counties were sent to the lab using funds from the DANY grant. In total, nearly 3,000 SAFE kits from Oregon were sent to be tested. As of September 2018, all of the SAFE kits identified under the DANY grant, have been submitted for testing.

In Oregon, Senate Bill 1571, known as "Melissa's Law," was the Oregon Legislature's response to ensuring all sexual assault kits, except for anonymous kits, are sent to the Oregon State Crime Laboratory for timely testing.

The Portland Police Bureau implemented a full submission policy in February 2015 that mandates every SAFE kit, with the exception of anonymous kits, be sent to the OSP Forensic laboratory.

Results from the kits continue to be investigated and survivors of sexual assaults are being notified through the [Rose Project](#). The PPB Sex Crimes Unit, a victim-centered and trauma-informed detail, encourages those who have had a SAFE kit collected prior to 2015 to contact the roseproject@portlandoregon.gov or 503-823-0125.

Current Multnomah County SAFE kit criminal cases (as of October 31, 2018)

State of Oregon vs Jihad Eldeen Moore - 18CR13996 – Convicted Oct. 31, 2018

State of Oregon vs Chanh Van Tran - 18CR25167 - Pending Trial

State of Oregon vs Curtis Clint Williams - 17CR37474 - Convicted in June 2018

State of Oregon vs Steven Guy Tubbs - 17CR08640 - Convicted in August 2018

State of Oregon vs Jose Oscar Rosales - 17CR29317 - Sentenced to 210 days in jail, 60 months of PPS

#MCDA#

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