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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Grand jury indicts Tsegay Abraha for the attempted aggravated murder of a police officer

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced 36-year-old Tsegay Abraha was arraigned on an indictment that charges him with the attempted aggravated murder of a police officer.

Abraha appeared before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Christopher A. Ramras on November 21, 2018 at the Multnomah County Justice Center. A plea of not guilty was entered on his behalf to all of the allegations listed in the indictment.

According to the indictment, Abraha unlawfully and intentionally attempted to cause the death of Portland Police Officer Taylor Rethmeier. The indictment further alleges that Abraha intentionally used a dangerous weapon to cause Officer Rethmeier serious physical injury.

According to a probable cause affidavit, police were dispatched to the 2500 block of Southeast 41st Avenue in Portland, Oregon on November 10, 2018 upon receiving information about an assault. Upon arrival, law enforcement spoke with a woman who reported seeing Abraha. The woman reported recognizing Abraha from the neighborhood and approached to check his welfare. The defendant did not respond. The woman began walking towards her residence when it is alleged Abraha came up from behind and used a metal rod to assault her.

The probable cause affidavit also states that on November 10, 2018, after the alleged assault in the 2500 block of Southeast 41st Avenue, Portland Police received information about a person vandalizing a parked vehicle in the 4100 block of Southeast Ivon Street. The description of the suspect throwing rocks at the vehicle matched the description of the individual who had previously assaulted the woman on Southeast 41st Avenue.

Officer Rethmeier was the first to arrive to the criminal mischief call on Southeast Ivon Street, according to the probable cause affidavit. During his contact with Abraha, the defendant assaulted Officer Rethmeier. A metal pipe, described to be approximately three feet long, was recovered as evidence at the scene. Officer Rethmeier was transported to an area hospital and was treated for numerous injuries that included, but were not limited to, a skull fracture.

The indictment charges Abraha with one count each of attempted aggravated murder, assault in the first degree, assaulting a public safety officer, criminal mischief in the first degree and criminal mischief in the second degree; two counts of assault in the second degree; three counts of menacing; and five counts of unlawful use of a weapon.

Abraha's next court appearance is scheduled for January 2, 2019.

A copy of the charging document and probable cause statement can be obtained using case number 18CR75188 in the Oregon eCourt Information (OECI) system.

An indictment is only an accusation of a crime, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

#MCDA#

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