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GRAND JURY RE-INDICTMENT FILED AGAINST VASILE MANTA

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced a grand jury returned a re-indictment for the alleged criminal conduct of Vasile Manta that occurred April 30, 2018 and May 14, 2018. The grand jury also determined a Multnomah County Sheriff's deputy was legally justified using deadly physical force against Manta on May 14.

The defendant appeared before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Melvin Oden-Orr on June 14, 2018 and was arraigned on an indictment associated with criminal conducted alleged to have occurred on April 30.

Pertaining to that case, the grand jury indicted the defendant with one count each of attempted aggravated murder with a firearm, attempted assault in the first degree with a firearm, unlawful use of a weapon with a firearm, being a felon in possession of a firearm with a firearm enhancement, criminal mischief in the first degree, reckless driving, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen vehicle, and theft in the first degree. Additionally, Manta is charged with two counts each of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer. The defendant is also charged with four counts of theft in the second degree and eight counts of identity theft.

According to previously released information from the Gresham Police Department, the investigation began at approximately 10:40 p.m. on April 30, 2018 when Gresham Police Officer Joshua Price located an occupied stolen minivan in a parking lot near Southwest Highland Drive and Southwest 11th Street. The defendant rammed the officer's patrol vehicle and fled westbound on West Powell Boulevard. Near the 17800 block of West Powell, the minivan got stuck on a median resulting in the defendant fleeing on foot while armed with a firearm.

It is alleged in the indictment the defendant did unlawfully and intentionally attempt to cause the death of Officer Price. Furthermore, it is alleged the defendant, a convicted felon, was unlawfully in possession of a firearm when he tried to shoot Officer Price with a deadly weapon.

On June 14, 2018, the grand jury determined the use of deadly physical force against Manta on May 14, 2018 by Multnomah County Sheriff Deputy Matthew Ferguson was justified under the criminal law.

Additionally, the grand jury has charged Manta with one count each of felony fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, criminal mischief in the first degree, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen vehicle, escape in the second degree, unlawful delivery of methamphetamine, unlawful possession of methamphetamine, unlawful delivery of heroin, unlawful possession of heroin, and four counts of recklessly endangering another person. All of these crimes are alleged to have occurred on May 14, 2018.

According to previously released information from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, on May 14th, 2018, at approximately 1:50 p.m. deputies assigned to the Special Investigations Unit observed Manta parked in a restaurant parking lot at Southeast 100th Avenue and Southeast Washington Street in Portland. In the process of contacting the defendant, he placed his vehicle in reverse and rammed a separate deputy's vehicle. Deputy Ferguson fired his weapon striking Manta.

The defendant's arraignment on the re-indictment, which is filed under case number 18CR31965, is scheduled for Monday June 18, 2018 at the Multnomah County Justice Center.

Newly adopted Senate Bill 505 provides grand jury proceedings be recorded. Senate Bill 505 also provides because of the ongoing nature of the criminal case against the defendant, only the parties to the criminal case are permitted to access the grand jury recordings. As such, this office will have no additional comment on the case.

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