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James Lionell McClure sentenced to 70 months in prison after stabbing a man in the heart in NW Portland

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced a 70 month prison sentence for 52 year old James Lionell McClure.

McClure pleaded no contest to one count of assault in the second degree on May 9, 2018 before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Kenneth R. Walker in connection with a stabbing that occurred on August 26, 2016. All other charges the defendant had been charged with have been dismissed. This case was resolved with considerable input and support from the victim and his family.

According to a probable cause affidavit, officers with the Portland Police Bureau responded to reports of a stabbing at Couch Park in Northwest Portland. Upon arrival, officers located a man suffering from a stab wound to his chest. The victim was transported to the hospital with critical injuries where he underwent emergency surgery.

"The victim in this case yelled out, 'he stabbed me in the heart' immediately after being attacked by the defendant," said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Shawn Overstreet, who prosecuted this case. "A short struggle between McClure and our victim ensued. Ultimately, the victim collapsed. Medical experts have told us that the victim died for approximately 11 minutes. The victim is miraculously alive today because of incredible efforts performed by the team at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, which brought him back to life."

Due to the victim's injuries, detectives assigned to the Portland Police Bureau's Homicide Detail responded and began looking into the events leading up to the stabbing. During the investigation, detectives learned the victim appeared to be waiting to use the bathroom in Couch Park when the defendant approached and stabbed the victim in the chest. The defendant fled the area and was taken into custody by patrol officers assigned to Central Precinct. During the initial investigation, detectives believed McClure stabbed the victim while attempting to steal the victim's property.

"This incident has changed the victim's life forever," Overstreet said. "When he woke up in the hospital, he had no memory of the incident, no recollection of being in a relationship or even moving to Portland where he was working for about a year prior to the altercation with the defendant. Today, he lives out of state with family members who have to care for him as a result of brain damage sustained during the time when he was medically considered deceased."

One of the potential challenges with taking this case to trial, included a possible self-defense claim. After multiple discussions, it was determined that justice would best be served through a negotiated settlement. As such, the defendant has accepted responsibility for his actions with this no contest plea.

Judge Walker sentenced the defendant to 70 months in prison. Upon his release from the Oregon Department of Corrections, McClure will be on three years of post-prison supervision.

#MCDA#

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