



## Rod Underhill, District Attorney

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### **Suspect in Christmas Day stabbing, robbery charged with attempted murder**

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that a grand jury returned a 15-count indictment against 19-year-old Saul Vela following a robbery and stabbing investigation that started on Christmas Day.

The indictment, which was filed on January 3, 2019, charges the defendant with attempted murder, assault in the first degree, unlawful use of a weapon, six counts of robbery in the first degree and six counts of robbery in the second degree.

The indictment alleges that on December 25, 2018, Vela unlawfully and intentionally used a knife to rob, assault and attempt to murder a person he previously did not know. The indictment also identifies two additional robbery victims.

This investigation started when Portland Police responded to reports of a robbery and stabbing on the MAX platform located at Southwest 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Southwest Oak Street in Portland, Oregon. Police arrived and located an adult male suffering from critical injuries, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Detectives assigned to the Portland Police Bureau's Robbery Unit responded to the scene and spoke with officers assigned to the Transit Division who located two of the suspects involved in the assault, according to court documents.

Law enforcement learned that the individual who was stabbed was waiting for MAX with two acquaintances, according to court documents. The group was approached by Vela and another individual. The two suspects confronted the group. The other individual with Vela pulled out a handgun, according to court documents. When one of the victims handed over his cellphone, he started to walk away but looked back and saw Vela attacking his friend, according to court documents.

The assault victim was stabbed multiple times, according to law enforcement.

Detectives located Vela near the crime scene and observed dried blood on his right hand, according to court documents.

Vela appeared in Multnomah County Circuit Court on January 4, 2019 and was arraigned on the indictment. His next court date is scheduled for February 15, 2019.

This remains an on-going investigation and as such, no additional information can be released by the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office.

A copy of the indictment and probable cause affidavit can be obtained using case number 18CR85414 in the Oregon eCourt Information (OECI) system.

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

#MCDA#

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