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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Douglas Braaten receives 10 year prison sentence for sexual abuse, attempted kidnapping in East Multnomah County**

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 62-year-old Douglas Braaten received a 10 year prison sentence after he sexually abused a person and attempted to hold that person against their will.

On March 22, 2019, Braaten pleaded guilty to one count of attempted kidnapping in the first degree and one count of sexual abuse in the first degree.

This investigation started on March 6, 2018 around 7:30 p.m., when the victim was eating some food in the parking lot of a convenience store near the intersection of Northeast 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Northeast Sandy Boulevard. Braaten used his horn to get the victim's attention. The victim went over to Braaten's vehicle where they had a discussion. Ultimately, the victim asked for a ride to a location in Portland, Oregon. Instead of taking the victim to the agreed upon location, Braaten drove past the victim's exit and continued to travel eastbound on Interstate 84 into the Columbia River Gorge.

The victim became frightened and texted 9-1-1 and alerted them to the attempted kidnapping.

Braaten drove the victim to the Bridal Veil exit and pulled into a gravel parking lot where he started making threatening statements. While being sexually abused, the victim saw red and blue emergency lights in the vicinity and was able to honk the vehicle's horn.

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office quickly located Braaten's vehicle, opened the door and located the victim crying and saw that the victim's pants were pulled down below the knee.

This case was litigated by the [Multnomah County District Attorney's Office Human Sex Trafficking Team](#), which includes two attorneys, an investigator and a victim advocate. Additionally, an attorney assigned to the MCDA gang unit is available to help prosecute cases and support the team as trafficking routinely intersects with gang violence.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Team works to protect victims utilizing a three-prong approach: (1) aggressively prosecuting those who traffic victims to sex buyers; (2) reducing demand for exploitation in all forms to include a dedicated focus on a reduction of sex buyers; and (3) ensuring adequate protection and support for victims of human trafficking.

If you are involved in sex trafficking, please call the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) at 1-888-373-7888 or 9-1-1.

If you would like to speak with someone about safety planning or other resources please contact the [Victim Assistance Program](#) for the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office at 503.988.3222.

This case was prosecuted by Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Mike Botthof.

#MCDA#

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