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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jeremiah Ray, 38, pleads guilty to assaulting paramedic

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 38-year-old Jeremiah Ray pleaded guilty and received a jail and probation sentence for assaulting an on-duty paramedic.

Ray pleaded guilty to one count of assault in the third degree and one count of unlawful use of a weapon. Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Kathleen M. Dailey sentenced Ray to 14 days in jail, with credit for time served, and three years of formal probation.

As part of his supervised probation, Ray must undergo a mental health evaluation and receive any treatment as recommended. Additionally, he must stay at least 500 feet from the Duniway Deli & Grocery, located in the 2400 block of Southwest 5th Avenue in Portland, Oregon and is prohibited from approaching any ambulance unless he is suffering from an actual medical emergency.

“After carefully reviewing the aggravating and mitigating circumstances of this case, this is the most appropriate resolution that, under these circumstances, is allowed under Oregon law,” said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney BJ Park, who prosecuted this case. “Nothing will undo the trauma that the victims in this case experienced. No one should ever be attacked. The fact that this happened to a first responder is shocking. Our paramedics help heal our community each day. Jeremiah Ray must be held accountable for his actions, but we also recognize there can be alternative approaches that ensure he receives treatment while simultaneously promoting public safety.”

Under Oregon’s current sentencing guideline, which was passed by the state legislature, the three year probation sentence was the presumptive penalty allowed by law.

This investigation started on February 25, 2019 when the victim was sitting in an ambulance. His partner was driving the ambulance and they were stopped at an intersection waiting for the light to turn green. While at the stoplight, Ray approached the passenger side door and climbed inside the ambulance. Ray went to the back of the ambulance. The paramedic seated in the front passenger seat went after Ray who had managed to get inside the rear portion of the ambulance where patients are treated. While in the back of the ambulance, Ray struggled with the victim and ultimately caused physical injury to the paramedic by biting him.

The paramedic did not receive life-threatening injuries.

After the assault, Ray exited the vehicle and went into a nearby deli where he got into a verbal altercation with the owner. She was able to yell for help. Officers responded and took Ray into custody.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, if Ray violates the terms of his formal probation, he could receive additional jail time.

The following addendum is being provided by the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office with regard to the guilty plea entered by Jeremiah Ray on April 9, 2019.

By pleading guilty to unlawful use of a weapon, Ray admitted that he intentionally possessed a knife, which is considered a dangerous weapon, and that he unlawfully and intentionally used that knife against the victim in this case. Additionally, by pleading guilty to assault in the third degree, Ray admitted that he intentionally and knowingly caused physical injury to the victim by biting him while the victim was performing his official duties as a paramedic.

#MCDA#

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