



Rod Underhill, District Attorney
1021 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 600
Portland, OR 97204-1193
Phone: 503-988-3162 Fax: 503-988-3643
www.mcda.us

MAY 7, 2019

Grand jury indicts man accused of shooting boy, police officer with a pellet air rifle

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that a grand jury has indicted 44-year-old Michael Lee Hart for allegedly shooting an 11-year-old boy and a Gresham Police officer with a pellet air rifle.

The indictment, which was filed May 6, 2019, charges Hart with two counts of assault in the second degree, two counts of unlawful use of a weapon, one count of assaulting a public safety officer and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

According to court documents, this investigation started on April 24, 2019 when an 11-year-old boy was climbing a tree with his younger brother at a residence in Gresham, Oregon. While climbing the tree, the child heard something repeatedly hitting the tree. Several minutes later, the child was shot in the back by a pellet.

The child was transported to the hospital where it was determined that the pellet had penetrated his back near the right of his spine, traveling through clothing, skin and muscle tissue. The pellet lodged in the child's kidney. Doctors determined it was too dangerous to remove the pellet.

On April 25, 2019, a Gresham Police officer and his partner were conducting a traffic stop near the entrance to an apartment complex in the 800 block of Southeast 187th Avenue in Gresham, according to court documents. As one of the officers was standing outside the patrol vehicle, both officers reported hearing a loud "pop and whistling noise."

One of the officers was struck in his elbow by a pellet, which tore a hole through his uniform, according to a probable cause affidavit. The pellet lodged into the officer's arm and rested on a nerve, which made it too dangerous to be surgically removed.

During the investigation, law enforcement executed a court-authorized search warrant on Hart's trailer and located a .177 caliber pellet air rifle that was loaded, according to court documents. Officers also located a bedroom window that was open and directly faced both the climbing tree and the location of the traffic stop. The window was covered by a screen that had several pellet-sized holes, according to court documents.

Hart was arraigned in Multnomah County Circuit Court on May 7, 2019.

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

#MCDA#

Contact: Brent Weisberg, Communications Director
Phone: 503.988.6567
Email: Brent.Weisberg@mcda.us