



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

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Man convicted of trespassing inside Portland City Hall, damaging public art display sentenced to probation

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 49-year-old David Davis received a two year bench probation sentence after a jury unanimously convicted him of trespass in the second degree and criminal mischief in the third degree for refusing to leave the City of Portland's council chamber and then smearing blood on a public art display.

"With this sentence, Mr. Davis will have a combination of long term accountability through probation, a mental health evaluation and treatment along with community service. The state believes that in this case, community service will actually be more of a deterrent, more effective and more productive than jail time," said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Quinn Zemel, who prosecuted this case.

Davis also goes by the name of "Kif Davis."

Under Oregon law, a person commits the crime of criminal trespass in the second degree if they enter or remain unlawfully in or upon a premises.

This investigation started on January 9, 2019 when Portland Police responded to city hall on reports of a disturbance. During the three day trial, the state presented evidence to show that Davis was repeatedly asked by members of a private security company to turn off the light on his handheld video camera.

When this incident occurred, Davis was using his camera to record an in-progress city council meeting.

During trial, Davis testified that he had been previously told by city hall staff that the camera's light caused a distraction and that it was not permitted.

"If city hall can't function, if it can't have orderly meetings then city business suffers," DDA Zemel said.

While the security guards attempted to get Davis to turn off the camera light, another individual in the audience started yelling loudly towards the security guards. As a result of the disruption, the city council meeting was disrupted and Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler called for a recess. City hall employees made the decision to clear the council chamber.

Davis refused to leave the council chamber and had to be physically removed.

During the process of being removed, Davis suffered a small injury to his hand that resulted in an open wound. Once removed from the council chamber, Davis intentionally wiped his blood on an art display inside city hall including writing "F," "U," and part of "C" in blood.

"It wasn't just a wall that was damaged," DDA Zemel said. "It was an art exhibit for the public. From the time when Mr. Davis painted his blood on the wall and until it was removed, the art was damaged. Its function to be visualized was inhibited."

In addition to the two year bench probation sentence, the court ordered Davis to complete 80 hours of community service within one year, undergo a mental health evaluation within 30 days and complete any recommended treatment, follow any legal directive given by city hall employees and G4S Security employees while at city hall and while within 150 feet of city hall, and not intentionally follow any city hall employee or G4S Security employee within 500 feet of city hall.

The jury acquitted Davis of one count of criminal mischief in the second degree.

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Contact: Brent Weisberg, Communications Director
Multnomah County District Attorney's Office
Phone: 503.988.6567 | Email: Brent.Weisberg@mcda.us