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Juan Sensational Dickens receives 120 month prison sentence after being convicted of attacking numerous homeless people

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 34-year-old Juan Sensational Dickens received a 120 month prison sentence following a collaborative effort between the Neighborhood and Strategic Prosecution Unit for the District Attorney's Office and the Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct Neighborhood Response Team.

"This case represents a huge milestone and achievement for the community, victims, the Portland Police Bureau and the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office Neighborhood and Strategic Prosecution Unit," said Multnomah County Senior Deputy District Attorney Nathan Vasquez, who heads the Neighborhood and Strategic Prosecution Unit. "Juan Dickens victimized some of our community's most exposed individuals for years. Because the victims were afraid, vulnerable by virtue of living on the streets, and experiencing multiple life challenges, these cases went unsolved until Portland Police Bureau Neighborhood Response Team Officer Matt Jacobsen decided to step in. Through his unrelenting dedication and efforts, we were able to solve these cases and get this 120 month prison sentence that holds Mr. Dickens accountable for his actions."

On Friday August 24, 2019, Dickens appeared in Multnomah County Circuit Court and was convicted after changing his plea to two counts of attempted aggravated murder, one count of attempted murder, and one count of assault in the first degree.

By changing his plea, Dickens is stipulating that there is sufficient evidence to show that he did the following:

- On August 17, 2015, he approached a man under the Burnside Bridge and stabbed the man in the back.
- On September 4, 2017, Dickens used a bicycle chain, to hit a man in the head, which resulted in the man needing stitches to close the open wound.
- On January 19, 2018, he stabbed a man in the torso.
- On November 17, 2018, Dickens used a knife to stab a man in the ribs, which resulted in doctors having to remove the man's spleen.

All of the victims attacked by Dickens were either homeless or were experiencing an addiction or mental health related illness.

"Many of the victims lived in fear because of Mr. Dickens," SDDA Vasquez said. "This one individual – because of his many vicious attacks - had so much power on the streets of Portland. We've taken that power away from him and given it back to the victims. Today, they no longer have to fear running into Mr. Dickens while in our community."

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office Neighborhood and Strategic Prosecution Unit reviews cases that stem from neighborhood and livability specific concerns. The unit is primarily responsible for interfacing with the community over specific issues and handles all types of cases across the criminal justice spectrum from misdemeanors to homicides.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office would like to recognize the Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct Neighborhood Response Team for their dedicated efforts investigating this case.

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