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Gresham man, 31, charged with multiple counts of bias crime

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced the filing of an eight-count indictment against 31-year-old Sead Seth Selimovich for allegedly threatening to kill a woman and damaging her property based on his perception of her race and color of her skin, which is a bias crime under Oregon law.

Selimovich is charged with four counts of bias crime in the second degree, three counts of criminal mischief in the second degree and one count of criminal mischief in the first degree.

According to court documents and other publicly available documents, the victim, who is black, and Selimovich are next door neighbors.

In mid-August, Selimovich started yelling racial slurs toward the victim from his residence, court documents state. The alleged hate speech used by Selimovich was intertwined with death threats, according to court documents. Also present during the alleged incident was a nine year old boy who walks the victim's dog. The victim reported Selimovich's yelling caused the child to become extremely frightened. The woman also reported that she feared for her life and believed Selimovich would try to hurt or kill her because of the color of her skin.

During the investigation, law enforcement learned that the victim's living room window had been broken out after someone threw a rock into it and that a window to the victim's vehicle had been broken out with a golf club, according to court documents.

Gresham Police responded to the victim's residence again and learned that the other windows, including the sunroof, to the victim's vehicle had been broken out, according to court documents. More than \$1,800 in damage was done to the vehicle.

Police spoke with the victim who identified Selimovich as the person breaking out her windows, according to court documents.

The indictment alleges that Selimovich unlawfully and intentionally, because of his perception of the race and skin color of the victim, subjected her to alarm by threatening to inflict serious physical injury; that he unlawfully and knowingly, with intent, caused substantial inconvenience to her and because of his perception of the race and skin color of the victim, he tampered and interfered with her vehicle on multiple occasions and that he unlawfully and intentionally damaged her personal property.

Selimovich appeared in Multnomah County Circuit Court on September 27, 2019.

Like in all criminal and civil matters, electronic copies of court documents, which are not subject to a protective order, are available to the public through the Oregon eCourt Information (OECI) system.

No additional information can be released by the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office at this time pursuant to the Oregon State Professional Rules of Conduct.

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

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office was an active participant of the Oregon Attorney General's Hate Crimes Task Force and helped draft the language that was in Senate Bill 577. The new law, which went into effect on July 15, 2019, renamed the crime

[CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO]

of “intimidation” to “bias crime,” added gender identity to the list of protected categories and removed the requirement that two or more people commit the crime in order to make it a felony in certain circumstances.

All potential bias crime cases, whether they are a felony or misdemeanor, are reviewed by the Violent Crimes Unit within the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office. If a misdemeanor bias crimes case is issued, the felony-level attorney will retain the case.

If you are the victim of a bias crime assault or you are witnessing one, immediately call 9-1-1. If you are the victim of a bias crime and the suspect is no longer present or if you have information about a bias crime committed in the past, call the non-emergency line at 503-823-3333.

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