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Man accused of felony bias crime for allegedly attacking transgender woman in the Pearl District

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced the filing of a three-count charging document against 38-year-old Dominick S. Gonzales for allegedly assaulting a transgender woman while using hate speech because of his perception of the victim's gender identity.

Gonzales is charged with one count of felony bias crime in the first degree, one count of bias crime in the second degree and one count of assault in the fourth degree.

This investigation started on September 29, 2019 when the victim, a white transgender woman, and her friend were standing in line waiting for free coffee and food in the North Park Blocks. Both individuals are houseless. The victim was wearing a dress, according to court documents, when a person, later identified as Gonzales, approached her and started yelling.

Gonzales used racist, homophobic and transphobic language towards the victim, according to court documents. The victim's friend tried to separate Gonzales from the victim and repeatedly told him to leave. Despite this, court documents state that Gonzales made multiple attempts to get around the other person in order to reach the victim and that he continued to use hateful and harmful speech.

According to court documents, Gonzales became even more hostile and ultimately punched the victim in her face, which resulted in bleeding and swelling to her lower lip.

Other people in the area stepped in and wrestled Gonzales to the ground, according to court documents.

Witnesses reported chasing after Gonzales after he started riding a bicycle from the scene, according to court documents. Law enforcement arrived in the area and located Gonzales. When officers observed Gonzales, he started pedaling faster, according to court documents.

Police arrested Gonzales at approximately 9:12 a.m. on Sunday in the area of Northwest Flanders Street and Northwest Park Avenue in Portland, Oregon.

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.

A charging document is only an accusation of a crime. Gonzales 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 law, which went into effect on July 15, 2019, renamed the crime 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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