



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

November 1, 2019

Suspect in downtown stranger-on-stranger kidnapping, sexual assault at yoga studio receives 120 month prison sentence

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 40-year-old Jerry Dessources received a 120 month prison sentence for kidnapping and sexually abusing a business owner in downtown Portland.

“This case strikes me as particularly heinous in nature,” said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Melissa Marrero, who litigated this case. “The victim – who is extremely resilient – opened her business to Mr. Dessources who then put her through something no one should ever have to go through. Had she not fought for her life, the outcome in this case could have been very different.”

This investigation started on January 4, 2018 when Portland Police responded to a yoga studio located in the 800 block of Southwest 2nd Avenue to investigate a sexual assault. Officers learned that the victim was preparing to open the studio when a man knocked on the door. The victim opened the door and spoke with the man who said he wanted to attend the day’s first yoga class. The business owner let the man in and had him fill out the registration form. He paid a \$20 guest fee.

When filling out the registration form, the man provided the name of “Jerry Dessources.”

After finishing the registration process, Dessources asked if he could use the changing room. As the victim escorted Dessources to the men’s locker room, he shoved her through a door, covered her mouth and nose with his hand and sexually assaulted her. The woman fought back against Dessources. At one point, she bit his finger in an attempt to stop the attack.

Dessources, who is approximately six feet tall and at the time of the incident weighed more than 300 pounds, continued to physically and sexually assault the woman.

Dessources loosened his grip from the woman after she said that her yoga class was about to start and that people would be arriving. When Dessources let go, the woman was able to run outside onto Southwest 2nd Avenue.

After the employee escaped, Dessources exited the building and fled the area on foot.

Officers conducted an area check immediately after the 9-1-1 call but were unable to locate Dessources.

Several hours after the attack, police located Dessources in the 800 block of Southwest Stark Street in Portland, Oregon. When officers took him into custody they observed an injury to his finger. When questioned by police, Dessources acknowledged that he had been bitten but provided no other information around the circumstances of his injury.

By changing his plea, Dessources stipulated there is sufficient evidence in this case that a judge or jury could have found him guilty at trial. The court convicted Dessources of one count of kidnapping in the first degree and sexual abuse in the first degree.

Upon his release, Dessources will be on post-prison supervision for a term no shorter than 45 months. He will also have to register as a sex offender.

The Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office recognizes the Portland Police Bureau’s Central Precinct officers who responded to the initial 9-1-1 call and the PPB Sex Crimes Unit for their dedicated efforts investigating this case. The District Attorney’s Office also recognizes Victim Advocate Tabitha Smith for her advocacy throughout this case.

#MCDA#

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