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Second suspect in random hatchet attack, robbery sentenced to 60 months in prison

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that Joshua Grant Funk, 39, received a 60 month prison sentence for his role in a robbery that resulted in a man being violently attacked with a hatchet.

On December 4, 2019, Funk changed his plea and was convicted of one count of robbery in the second degree.

This investigation started shortly after midnight on October 7, 2018 when police and paramedics responded to reports of a robbery and assault in the area of Northeast Schuyler Street and Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Portland, Oregon. When officers arrived on scene, they located an adult male on the ground holding a rag to his head. He was bleeding profusely.

During the investigation, law enforcement learned that the victim and his wife were getting ready to head home after attending an event when Funk and another man, later identified as Eric Saia approached him on bikes. The two men rode past the victim but circled back and said something to the effect of "drop your stash," which was indicative of a robbery. The victim's wife was in a nearby car and witnessed the attack.

During the robbery, Saia removed a hatchet from his backpack and hit the victim in the head with an overhead swing.

The victim, who suffered significant head trauma, was transported to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center and required multiple surgeries.

"There was no reason for either Mr. Funk or Mr. Saia to approach either of the victims," said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Eric Collins who prosecuted this case. "These were two innocent people. They did nothing wrong. The only reason Mr. Funk or Mr. Saia approached them was because they saw these victims as potential easy targets to rob."

After the assault, Saia and Funk got back on their bikes and fled the scene. Saia [received a 10 year prison sentence](#) in August.

During the investigation detectives assigned to the Portland Police Bureau's Robbery Detail learned that Funk dropped a plastic cup. Police collected the cup and submitted it to the Oregon State Police Crime Lab for forensic testing, which confirmed the presence of Funk's DNA.

Detectives went to a nearby convenience store and obtained surveillance video from October 7, 2018 and observed a man who resembled Funk purchasing the same drink that was thrown at the victim just before the robbery and assault.

"The victims of this random attack continue to recover from this violent, unprovoked attack," said DDA Collins. "That recovery will likely last the rest of their lives as will the physical and emotional trauma."

Robbery in the second degree is a Ballot Measure 11 offense, which would have required a 70 month mandatory minimum prison sentence. However, the state stipulated to a sentence that was less than the mandatory minimum sentence that would have been otherwise required by Ballot Measure 11. This decision was done as part of the pretrial negotiations and in consultation with the victims in the case and with the court's approval.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office recognizes the Portland Police Bureau, Detective Tracy Chamberlain and the rest of the PPB Robbery Detail for their dedicated efforts on this case.

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