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**Jeff Douglas Smeltzer receives a jail and probation sentence for assaulting a homeless veteran**

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 53-year-old Jeff Douglas Smeltzer received a jail and probation sentence for assaulting a homeless veteran living in the Kenton neighborhood.

“For whatever reason, Mr. Smeltzer decided to violently take out his frustrations about homeless individuals in his neighborhood on a 73 year old veteran who was living out of his car,” said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Eric Palmer, who prosecuted this case. “The Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office is fully committed to protecting and serving all members of our community no matter their life circumstances. Since this attack, the victim has secured housing and is attempting to move on from this vicious incident.”

This investigation started on August 13, 2019, at approximately 7:30 p.m., when Portland Police received information about a man, later identified as Smeltzer, beating a 73 year old homeless man near the intersection of North Russet Street and North Montana Avenue. When officers arrived, they contacted the victim who was bloodied with a severe laceration above his left eye.

The victim told police that his vehicle was his only shelter and that it had been parked on a public roadway for about approximately two or more weeks.

Police asked the victim if he knew his attacker. The victim said no, but provided a physical description and told police that the suspect previously honked his vehicle’s horn while driving by the victim’s car and had yelled at the victim and others to move.

When police contacted Smeltzer, he told officers that he called 9-1-1 to report individuals living near North Russet Street and North Montana Ave. During the 9-1-1 call, emergency dispatchers gave Smeltzer information about how to receive assistance from the City of Portland.

During the call with emergency dispatchers, Smeltzer said he was going to handle the situation himself. The emergency dispatcher admonished Smeltzer to avoid any confrontations or illegal behavior.

Smeltzer told police that after the 9-1-1 call, he walked up to the intersection, located the victim’s vehicle, knocked on the window and told the person inside, “you need to move.”

Law enforcement determined that Smeltzer pulled the victim from his vehicle and started punching him repeatedly in the face.

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After the assault, Smeltzer left the victim bloodied and walked away.

Police spoke with witnesses who confirmed the victim’s account. One witness told police the suspect used a closed fist to assault the victim. Another witness told police the victim stood still while being assaulted.

Firefighters and paramedics responded and treated the victim. Against medical advice, he declined to be taken to the hospital to receive stitches.

This case resolved on the day of trial. The victim, who was present and fully involved with the pretrial negotiations, supported the resolution of this case.

<b>Court imposed sentence in State v. Smeltzer</b>
• 14 days jail;
• 24 months of formal probation;
• Participate in a mental health evaluation and complete any treatment that is recommended;
• If no mental health treatment is recommended, complete an anger management class;
• Pay a \$300 fine;
• Pay a \$1,000 compensatory fine to the victim.

Smeltzer, through his attorney, presented the victim a cashier’s check at the time of sentencing to complete his compensatory fine obligation.

Multnomah County is part of the Joint Office of Homeless Services, which oversees the delivery of services to homeless individuals in Multnomah County. The office represents a shared commitment between Multnomah County and the City of Portland to making services easier to access for those in need. For more information, please click [here](#).

The City of Portland uses the “One Point of Contact Campsite Reporting System so community members can report issues of illegal camping or related garbage within Portland. Additional information is available on the City of Portland’s [Homelessness Toolkit](#).

The Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office recognizes Portland Police Bureau Officers Elizabeth Willard, Justin Clary and Jeffrey Elias for their dedicated efforts investigating this case.

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