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Jury convicts Delisa Gill of intimidation for attacking the owner of a Mexican restaurant

[Note: A Spanish version of this press release can be obtained by clicking here.](#)

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 46-year-old Delisa Gill received five months of jail and five years of formal probation after a jury unanimously found her guilty of assaulting the owner of a local restaurant.

“Attacks like this cause significant fear and trauma for victims and our community,” said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney BJ Park, who prosecuted this case. “We support and encourage victims of bias crimes to come forward and to report these attacks to law enforcement. Our office continues to devote significant resources towards helping victims of bias crimes and prosecuting these cases so that we protect all members of our community when they are victimized because of their race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.”

The jury found that Gill intentionally subjected the victim, a Latina, to offensive physical contact because of her perception of the victim’s race, color or national origin and that Gill intentionally caused physical injury to the victim.

Gill was convicted of one count of intimidation in the second degree and one count of assault in the fourth degree.

This investigation started on May 18, 2019 when Portland Police received information about a disturbance at the Michoacán Mexican restaurant, located in the 7000 block of North Interstate Avenue.

When police arrived, they contacted the victim and found her with abrasions to her arm and a mark on her face. The victim told police that she was working at the restaurant when a woman she did not know, later identified as Gill, assaulted her after becoming upset over a debit card transaction fee the restaurant charges on purchases under \$5.

During the investigation, law enforcement learned that Gill and another woman arrived at the restaurant and ordered a burrito. At the request of Gill’s friend, the victim agreed to lower the price of the burrito from approximately \$9 to \$3.

Gill’s friend also wanted to purchase a popular Mexican soda for \$2 with her debit card. When the victim told Gill’s friend that she would need to charge .35 cents for any purchase \$5 or less, Gill became extremely upset and started screaming at the victim.

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The victim testified that Gill told her to “go back to your country,” yelled at the victim to speak English, mocked her for speaking Spanish and used other hateful and racist speech toward the victim.

Gill then grabbed the victim by her hair, shoved her head against a tree approximately four times and pushed her to the ground. During the fight, the victim grabbed a broom in an attempt to protect herself from Gill but it had little effect.

During the assault, Gill dropped her keys and a TriMet boarding pass, which had her name on it. Police seized the items as evidence and later contacted Gill and arrested her.

Court imposed sentence in State v. Gill

- Five years of formal probation;
- Five months of jail (to be taken into custody today);
- No contact with the victim;
- Do not come within 500 feet of the restaurant;
- No entry into the restaurant;
- No early termination of probation without a court hearing;
- Perform 88 hours of community service.

Gill will receive credit for time already served and will be eligible for early release for in-patient alcohol treatment.

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 crime 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.

This crime occurred before July 15, 2019 and so the charge Gill was convicted of should be referred to as “intimidation in the second degree.”

#MCDA#