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*"Inclusion Through Diversity"*

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PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Attorney Matthew Van Houten announced today that Arthur A. Harriett, 49, of Ithaca, was convicted by a jury yesterday afternoon of the crimes of Kidnapping in the Second Degree, Assault in the Second Degree, Robbery in the First Degree and Robbery in the Second Degree. Harriett was convicted of two counts of each offense because there were two individual victims.

Kidnapping in the Second Degree and Robbery in the First Degree, the most serious charges, are Class B felonies punishable by a term of between 8 and 25 years in state prison. The indictment charged Harriett with assaulting two men with a machete, threatening them with a shotgun while holding them against their will in a dog crate and forcibly stealing their personal property in the early morning hours of September 17, 2023, in the City of Ithaca.

Harriett was convicted of all charges after a jury trial in the Tompkins County Court. The trial commenced on Monday, May 20th and concluded on Thursday, May 30th, 2024. Harriett was remanded to the Tompkins County Jail pending sentencing.

Sentencing has been scheduled for August 1, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. before Judge Joseph R. Cassidy.

District Attorney Van Houten prosecuted the case with the assistance of ADA Heidi Paulino. Robert Baska from Syracuse represented the defendant. The Ithaca Police Department investigated the case.

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