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"Inclusion Through Diversity"

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PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

District Attorney Matthew Van Houten announced today that Arthur A. Harriett, 49, of Ithaca, was sentenced this afternoon in connection with two separate indictments for crimes he committed in 2023.

Harriett was sentenced for 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, after a two-week jury trial that ended on May 30, 2024. Kidnapping in the Second Degree and Robbery in the First Degree, the most serious charges, are Class B violent 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 also sentenced in connection with a separate indictment charging him with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, a Class A-II felony. Harriett was indicted by the Grand Jury for possessing approximately 3.6 ounces of methamphetamine in his underwear on October 5, 2023. Harriett pleaded guilty to the top charge on July 18, 2024. The sentencing range for the drug felony is between 6 and 14 years in prison.

County Court Judge Joseph R. Cassidy sentenced Harriett to 30 years in New York State Prison plus 5 years of Post Release Supervision. Broken down, the Court sentenced Harriett to two consecutive terms of 15 years plus 5 years of Post Release Supervision, representing a sentence of 15 years for each victim in the Kidnapping case, to run back-to-back. The Court also imposed sentences of 15 years plus 5 years of Post Release Supervision for the First-Degree Robbery convictions, 10 years plus 5 years of Post Release Supervision for the Second-Degree Robbery convictions, and 7 years plus 5 years of Post Release Supervision

for the Second-Degree Assault convictions, all of which are to run concurrently with the sentences for the Kidnapping convictions.

Judge Cassidy sentenced Harriett to a term of 6 years plus 5 years of Post Release Supervision for the Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Second-Degree conviction.

In summary, the Court imposed the following:

Indictment 70314-23:

- Count 1: Kidnapping 1st Degree: 15 years + 5 Post Release Supervision;
- Count 2: Kidnapping 1st Degree: 15 years + 5 Post Release Supervision – *consecutive* to Count 1;
- Count 3: Robbery 1st Degree: 15 years + 5 Post Release Supervision – concurrent to Counts 1 & 2;
- Count 4: Robbery 1st Degree: 15 years + 5 Post Release Supervision – concurrent to Counts 1 & 2;
- Count 5: Robbery 2nd Degree: 10 years + 5 Post Release Supervision – concurrent to Counts 1 & 2;
- Count 6: Robbery 2nd Degree: 10 years + 5 Post Release Supervision – concurrent to Counts 1 & 2;
- Count 7: Assault 2nd Degree: 7 years + 5 Post Release Supervision – concurrent to Counts 1 & 2;
- Count 8: Assault 2nd Degree: 7 years + 5 Post Release Supervision – concurrent to Counts 1 & 2.

Indictment 70335-23:

- Count 1: Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 2nd Degree: 6 years plus 5 Post Release Supervision, concurrent to sentence from Indictment 70314-23.

Van Houten said “The imposition of such a severe sentence is not something that anyone in the Tompkins County justice system takes lightly. The evidence in the trial was overwhelming proof that Arthur Harriett’s crimes were specifically heinous and cruel and were committed against two vulnerable members of this community. Under the circumstances, the sentence imposed by the Court is appropriate and justified.”

Harriett has been held in the Tompkins County Jail since his arrest on October 5, 2023.

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 Kidnapping case and the Tompkins County Sheriff’s Office investigated the Narcotics case.
