



Rod Underhill, District Attorney
1021 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 600
Portland, OR 97204-1193
Phone: 503-988-3162 Fax: 503-988-3643
www.mcda.us

October 8, 2019

Man who threatened a child, mother receives probation, treatment sentence

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 50-year-old Brian Ray Lankford pleaded guilty and received a sentence of 36 months formal probation through the Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program after he unlawfully used a weapon to place a mother and her child in fear of imminent serious physical injury.

“This is a case that highlights the outcomes that can result as part of the coordinated and intentional efforts of the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Strategic Prosecution Unit, the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, the Multnomah County Circuit Court and the Portland Police Bureau’s Neighborhood Response Team and its Service Coordination Team,” said Multnomah County Senior Deputy District Attorney Nathan Vasquez, who litigated this case. “The victim and her son were put in a very scary situation involving Brian Lankford. The victim’s son, who was inside a car when this all happened, told police that he feared Mr. Lankford would break out the car’s window and potentially hurt him or his mother.”

The victim and law enforcement both support this negotiated resolution, which calls for intensive supervision and treatment so Lankford is successful in the future and can exit the criminal justice system.

As part of his sentence, the court ordered that Lankford abide by all conditions of the Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program and any conditions imposed by his probation officer. The court also ordered that Lankford not have any contact with the victim or her son and cannot enter or remain at the location where this incident occurred. Furthermore, Lankford will not be allowed to be in possession of any weapons and will have to comply with the Portland Police Bureau’s Service Coordination Team and engage in drug and alcohol treatment as well as mental health treatment.

This investigation started August 3, 2019 when police responded to reports of a disturbance in the 1800 block of Southwest 14th Avenue in Portland, Oregon. Police learned that the property owner located Lankford and another person on her property and asked them to leave. Lankford was in possession of a tree branch and was swinging it while he yelled at the victim. While swinging the branch, Lankford walked toward the victim’s vehicle, which is where her minor son watched the events unfold. A neighbor, who heard the disturbance, reported that he exited his home and saw Lankford near the victim’s car hitting the ground with the branch. The witness told police he believed Lankford was trying to threaten the victim and waited with her until police arrived.

If Lankford is unsuccessful meeting the conditions of his probation, the court has the authority to imposed additional sanctions, including 25-60 months in prison.

As stated on its website: the Service Coordination Team is a Portland Police Bureau program that provides housing and addiction treatment to individuals with chronic arrests. Through the coordination of law enforcement and community providers, services work to address the root cause of criminal activity and offer real, long-term, attainable solutions to aid individuals in changing their lives.

The Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office Strategic Prosecution Unit reviews cases that stem from neighborhood-specific concerns. The unit is primarily responsible for interfacing with the community over specific issues, and handles all types of cases across the criminal justice spectrum to include misdemeanors and homicides.

The Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office recognizes the Portland Police Bureau’s Central Precinct patrol officers and its Neighborhood Response Team for their dedicated efforts investigating this case.

#MCDA#

Contact: Brent Weisberg, Communications Director
Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office
Phone: 503.988.6567 | Email: Brent.Weisberg@mcda.us