



Hamilton County Prosecuting Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

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HAMILTON COUNTY PROSECUTOR JOSEPH T. DETERS
ANNOUNCES INDICTMENTS IN DOWNTOWN CRIMES
OCCURRING ON JULY 4TH 2015.

Today, Hamilton County Prosecutor Joseph T. Deters announced indictments for the crimes committed on July 4th on Government Square and Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati.

Cincinnati Police responded to the area at approximately 11:00 p.m. on July 4th in regard to a large disorderly crowd. Responding officers found a large crowd throwing bottles and fireworks in the direction of police officers. Two officers were assaulted as they were attempting to make arrests. Officer Joe Simpson was struck in the face. Officer Roger Noe was punched in the face. Both officers were treated and released from the hospital the next morning.

Seven people were arrested and/or charged with crimes regarding assaults on the two Cincinnati Police officers as well as disorderly conduct. The four adult defendants were indicted today on the following charges:

- **Jy Quynn Britten** (dob 11/2/93):
 - 2 counts of Aggravated Riot (2917.02 Felony 4)
 - 1 count of Assault on a Police Officer (2903.13 Felony 4)
 - 1 count of Inducing Panic (2917.31 Felony 4)
 - If convicted of all charges, Britten is facing the possibility of 3 years in prison.
- **Gary Sheffield** (dob 1/31/86):
 - 1 count of Aggravated Riot (2917.02 Felony 4)
 - 1 count of Inducing Panic (2917.31 Misdemeanor 1)
 - If convicted of all charges, Sheffield faces the possibility of 1 ½ years in prison.



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- **Orlando Thomas** (dob 10/21/96):
 - 1 count of Aggravated Riot (2917.02 Felony 4)
 - 1 count of Inducing Panic (2917.31 Misdemeanor 1)
 - If convicted of all charges, Thomas faces the possibility of 1 ½ years in prison.
- **Tyre Burke** (dob 5-3-97):
 - 1 count of Aggravated Riot (2917.02 Felony 4)
 - 1 count of Inducing Panic (2917.31 Misdemeanor 1)
 - If convicted of all charges, Burke faces the possibility of 1 ½ years in prison.
- Three juveniles also have charges pending in the Hamilton County Juvenile Court for this matter. Randy Jackson is charged with Assault on a Police Officer and Obstructing Official Business. His case is set on July 16th for possible bind-over. Jermaine Johnson is charged with Assault on a Police Officer, Disorderly Conduct, and Resisting Arrest. His case is set for possible bind-over on July 15th. Herschel Palmore is charged with Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest. His charges are set for trial in the Hamilton County Juvenile Court on August 26th. There is an open warrant for him on the charge of Aggravated Riot.

Three adult defendants have been charged with the felonious assault of Christopher McKnight which occurred on Government Square. These defendants were indicted today on the following charges:

Mordecia Black (dob 1/21/87)

Raashaun Hand (dob 9/7/95)

Steven Montgomery (dob 3/8/97)



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All three are charged with:

1 count of Felonious Assault (2903.11 Felony 2)

2 counts of Aggravated Riot (2917.02 Felony 4)

1 count of Inducing Panic (2917.31 Felony 4)

If convicted of all charges, these defendants face in excess of 9 years in prison.

- One juvenile has also been charged with the assault on Mr. McKnight. Antonio Tremble is charged with Felonious Assault. This matter is set for trial on July 20th but on July 10th the State of Ohio filed a motion to set the case for possible bind-over.

In addition to being knocked unconscious, Mr. McKnight suffered injuries including a broken nose and numerous abrasions and bruises. He was treated and released from the hospital later in the day on July 5th.

Hamilton County Prosecutor Joseph T. Deters commented, "What happened on Government Square and Fountain Square was disgusting. This is conduct that we will not tolerate in Hamilton County. You are not going to do this in our city, and you're not going to do this to our police officers.

There has been a lot of discussion as to whether or not the assault on Mr. McKnight was racially motivated. There is no evidence of this. No matter, our "hate crime" statute, which is ORC 2927.12 Ethnic Intimidation, only covers five misdemeanors committed with a racial motivation. The criminals who assaulted Mr. McKnight did not commit misdemeanors against him, they committed serious felonies. As a result, our "hate crime" statute does not apply to these serious felonies.

These defendants deserve the maximum sentences for their crimes."