



Office of the Washington County Attorney

Kevin Magnuson, County Attorney

Press Release

Contact: Laura Perkins, Public Information Manager

Phone: 651-430-7994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 10th, 2023

MCF-OPH inmate charged with assault following January attack on correctional sergeant

STILLWATER, Minn. -- An inmate at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Oak Park Heights (MCF-OPH) has been charged with first-degree assault following an attack on a correctional sergeant that left her with permanent vision loss, Washington County Attorney Kevin Magnuson announced.

36-year-old Dominique Antoine Jefferson, who has been incarcerated since 2005 for aiding and abetting second-degree murder, requested to speak with a member of the crisis intervention team on January 15th at just after 9:30 a.m. After a brief exchange of words, a correctional sergeant instructed Jefferson to return to his cell. Jefferson refused and instead removed a clear plastic mouthguard from his pants pocket and placed it in his mouth. He told the sergeant to "ring the bell" and said, "I've been waiting for you." As she reached for her radio to call for assistance, Jefferson punched the sergeant with a closed fist, causing her to fall to the ground. Other officers quickly restrained Jefferson, who continued to verbally assault and threaten them.

The sergeant was transported by ambulance to Regions Hospital where she was found to have significant damage to her right eye and numerous facial fractures. Despite undergoing multiple surgeries over the past several months, the injuries sustained from the attack have caused irreparable damage and resulted in the permanent loss of vision in her right eye. She will also require additional surgical procedures to repair the fractures to her facial bones.

"Correctional officers face the daily challenge of maintaining order and safety in some of the most challenging and dangerous environments, often at great personal risk," said Washington County Attorney Kevin Magnuson. "We are grateful to the Minnesota Department of Corrections and the department's Office of Special Investigations for their dedicated efforts in bringing this case forward."

As Jefferson is currently under the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections, a complaint warrant was requested to facilitate his prompt appearance before the Washington County District Court. The schedule for his initial court appearance is yet to be determined.

"Under no circumstance is the assault of a correctional officer tolerable, and the permanent harm that resulted from this assault is life-altering," said Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell. "We stand in support of the sergeant who suffered this horrific injury and we are grateful to the Washington County Attorney's Office for their thoughtful review of this case, which resulted in these serious criminal charges," he added.

The first-degree assault charge in this case comes after five other correctional staff were assaulted this week in three separate attacks in the Stillwater and Oak Park Heights Department of Corrections facilities. These incidents remain under active investigation by the Minnesota Department of Corrections and the result of the investigations will be submitted to the Washington County Attorney's Office for possible charges.

Assistant Washington County Attorney Marc Berris is prosecuting this case.

State of Minnesota
County of Washington

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CR-2023-145
Court File No. 82-CR-23-840

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Warrant

vs.

DOMINIQUE ANTOINE JEFFERSON DOB: 11/12/1986

5329 Osgood Avenue N
Stillwater, MN 55082

Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Assault-1st Degree-Great bodily harm against peace officer/prosecutor/judge or correction employee

Minnesota Statute: 609.221.3, with reference to: 609.221.5(a)(2)

Maximum Sentence: 25 years and \$35,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/15/2023

Control #(ICR#): 20230032

Charge Description: assault a peace officer, prosecuting attorney, judge, or correctional employee, to-wit: Victim, and inflict great bodily harm on the officer, attorney, judge, or employee while the person is engaged in the performance of a duty imposed by law, policy, or rule

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

Your complainant is employed by the Minnesota Department of Corrections as a Special Investigator and offers the following statement to establish probable cause:

On January 15, 2023, DOMINIQUE ANTOINE JEFFERSON, d/o/b 11/12/1986, was an inmate at the Minnesota Correctional Facility – Oak Park Heights (hereinafter "MCF-OPH") as a consequence of being convicted in 2005 of Aiding and Abetting Murder in the Second Degree. MCF-OPH is located in the City of Oak Park Heights, Washington County, Minnesota.

At approximately 9:32 a.m. on that date, JEFFERSON approached the "bubble" in Complex 1 of the prison and told the correctional officer stationed inside that he wanted to speak with a member of the crisis intervention team. A correctional sergeant identified hereinafter as "Victim" approached JEFFERSON and told him that she was a member of the crisis intervention team. JEFFERSON said that he did not want to speak with Victim, and Victim then directed JEFFERSON to "switch in" by returning to his cell. Instead of doing so, JEFFERSON removed what appeared to be a clear plastic mouthguard from his pants pocket, placed it in his mouth, and told Victim, "Better ring the bell. I ain't switching in. I've been waiting for you." Victim reached for the microphone of her portable radio to call for assistance and JEFFERSON told her, "If you tone that, I'm gonna bust you in the mouth." Before Victim could react, JEFFERSON punched Victim in the eye with a closed fist, sending her violently to the ground. Victim began bleeding profusely from her face. Other correctional officers restrained JEFFERSON and as they did, JEFFERSON told them, "90 seconds! I can knock any one of these motherfuckers out in 90 seconds!" JEFFERSON also told them, "I ain't done yet. When I get out of seg I'm hitting all of you on me now." JEFFERSON also stated, "Ha ha! I made that bitch bleed out and I only have five years left." Finally, JEFFERSON told them, "Let go of me and I'll do the same to every one and each of y'all. I'll remember y'all when I come out."

Victim was transported by ambulance to Regions Hospital in St. Paul, a Level I Trauma Center. Victim was found to have significant damage to her right eye and numerous facial fractures. Since the assault Victim has had multiple surgeries performed on her eye and has been informed that her retina has permanently detached from her eyeball and cannot be reattached. As a result Victim has permanently lost vision in her right eye. Victim has also been told by her physicians that she will require a minimum of four additional surgeries to repair the fractures to her facial bones and attempt to mitigate the scarring that will result from these procedures.

As JEFFERSON is currently in the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections a complaint warrant is requested so he can most expeditiously be brought before this court.

Additionally, the State hereby gives notice of its intent to seek the imposition of the mandatory sentence contemplated by Minnesota Statutes section 609.221, subdivision 5, based on the fact that at the time of the assault, Victim was a correctional employee engaged in the performance of her official duties.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: YOU MUST APPEAR FOR EVERY COURT HEARING REGARDING THIS CASE. FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR COURT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE AND MAY RESULT ON ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL CHARGES BEING IMPOSED AND PUNISHED AS PROVIDED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 609.49.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Daniel Lee Barbian
Special Investigator
1450 Energy Park Drive
Suite 200
St Paul, MN
Badge: 160

Electronically Signed:
03/10/2023 12:13 PM
Washington County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Marc Berris
PO Box 6
15015 62nd Street North
Stillwater, MN 55082
(651) 430-6115

Electronically Signed:
03/10/2023 10:38 AM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

Execute in MN Only

Execute Nationwide

Execute in Border States

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$35,000.00

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: March 10, 2023.

Judicial Officer

Gregory G Galler
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 03/10/2023 12:27 PM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF WASHINGTON
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Dominique Antoine Jefferson

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Warrant
upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Name: Dominique Antoine Jefferson
DOB: 11/12/1986
Address: 5329 Osgood Avenue N
Stillwater, MN 55082

Alias Names/DOB:

SID:

Height:

Weight:

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Gender: MALE

Race: Black

Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes

Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: No

Driver's License #:

Alcohol Concentration:

STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

Cnt Nbr	Statute Type	Offense Date(s)	Statute Nbrs and Descriptions	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Case Numbers
1	Charge	1/15/2023	609.221.3 Assault-1st Degree-Great bodily harm against peace officer/prosecutor/judge or correction employee	Felony	A115C	N	MN0622300	20230032
	Penalty	1/15/2023	609.221.5(a)(2) Assault-1st Degree-Mandatory minimum; Violation of subdivision 3	Felony	A115C	N	MN0622300	20230032