



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

For Immediate Release
June 1, 2023

Contact: Shannon Carbone
Phone: 303-441-3804
scarbone@bouldercounty.org

Press Release

On June 28, 2020, at 2:34 am, Eric Serrott attacked and stabbed a person who had been sound asleep. This attack took place at a homeless encampment behind Boulder Gas, located at 28th Street and Valmont in Boulder, Colorado.

For his actions, the District Attorney's Office charged the defendant with two counts of Attempt to Commit Murder in the First Degree and two counts of Assault in the First Degree. Each of the two counts were for acting with intent and extreme indifference.

The defendant used his large knife and stabbed the victim, Jeffrey Pittman, in the head, neck and upper body. The other unhoused people in the area helped thwart the defendant's attack and immediately sought medical care for the victim. They were particularly concerned that Mr. Pittman was bleeding out; that concern was well founded. Doctors later determined that an artery had been cut by one of the deeper stab wounds. The Boulder Police Department and medical professionals acted very quickly to save the life of Mr. Pittman. The treating physician from Boulder Community Hospital testified that the victim, who was 64 years old at the time, suffered serious bodily injury and could have died from the attack. The victim carries the scars to this day and will for the rest of his life.

The Boulder Police Department rushed to the scene of the attack to help the victim and locate the assailant. Their strong response led to the apprehension of the defendant, who had dropped his knife, fled the scene, and tried to get away. Police officers located him hiding in the bushes behind a building several blocks away.

Due in part to the trial backlog caused by the pandemic, nearly 3 years passed from the time of the attack until trial. The victim and other individuals from the homeless encampment testified at trial, although several of the witnesses are currently in custody on other matters.

The jury found the defendant guilty on all counts. The defendant faced a sentencing range of 16 to 48 years on the charge of Attempt to Commit Murder in the First Degree. Today, the District Attorney's Office recommended a sentence of 40 years in state prison; the defendant requested

the minimum sentence of 16 years in prison. The Court imposed a sentence of 30 years in state prison on the Attempt to Commit Murder in the First Degree charge and 16 years in state prison on the Assault in the First Degree charge. Those sentences must run concurrent under the law.

DA Michael Dougherty stated, “This defendant committed a brutal and senseless attack on a sleeping victim. It is because of the courage of the individuals who intervened that the victim is alive today. The Boulder Police Department did an outstanding job on this case; their officers and detectives worked incredibly hard. This lengthy prison sentence is the right outcome; it reflects the defendant’s criminal history and the nature of this terrible attack.”