



PRESS RELEASE

Defendant Sentenced to 45 Years for Assaulting Police Officer March 31, 2023

Bryan, TX - On Thursday, March 30, 2023, Judge David Hilburn of the 361st District Court sentenced Lawrence Auston to 45 years in prison for the offense of Assault of a Peace Officer. A Brazos County jury convicted the defendant on Wednesday of the charge.

In March 2019, a Bryan Police Officer observed the defendant fail to signal a turn and exhibit signs that he was driving while intoxicated. When the officer approached the defendant's vehicle, he immediately noticed the odor of PCP, a dangerous drug, coming from the defendant's truck.

When the officer began to place the defendant under arrest for having no driver's license, the defendant began resisting arrest and refused to cooperate with the officer. The officer repeatedly tried to calm the defendant down, but he refused to cooperate.

The defendant pulled away from the officer and dove back into his truck to flee. The officer refused to let him drive away and entered the vehicle. The defendant then wrapped his arm around the officer's head and attempted to strangle him.

Over the next several minutes, the defendant repeatedly struck, kicked, and dragged the officer across the ground. The officer called for backup to this assault.

At the time of the assault, most Bryan officers on duty were involved in rescuing a woman from a submerged vehicle wreck and were also involved in assisting the Brazos County Sheriff's Office in the pursuit of a criminal suspect.

When the first backup officer arrived on scene, he saw the defendant on top of the original officer, in the process of actively strangling him. It required several additional officers to get the defendant into handcuffs after he was pulled off the original officer.

During punishment, prosecutors presented evidence that after being released on bond for Assault on a Peace Officer, the defendant was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated while high on PCP. In that case, an independent witness reported that the defendant was intoxicated and was driving the wrong way down North Harvey Mitchell Parkway. When officers attempted to draw his blood pursuant to a search warrant, it took five officers to subdue the defendant.

Prosecutors also presented evidence that while on bond, the defendant broke into a stranger's home during the middle of the day. The defendant fled when the female household member called 911. She reported that the suspect appeared under the influence of some substance. Officers contacted





PRESS RELEASE

the defendant walking up Texas Ave. The defendant was publicly intoxicated on PCP and created a disturbance in the parking lot of a local restaurant. It ultimately required a total of seven officers to take the defendant safely into custody. During the struggle to place the defendant in custody, the defendant attempted to grab one of the officer's firearms.

The defendant has a lengthy criminal history and two prior prison sentences for Burglary of a Habitation and Tampering with Evidence, making him a habitual felon.

This case was investigated by many officers with the Bryan Police Department and Investigator Tiffany Graves with the Brazos County District Attorney's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Anjelica Harris and Jessica Escue.

We ask law enforcement to protect and serve our community by running towards dangerous situations and individuals. When fulfillment of that duty results in them being intentionally harmed, our community must respond to protect them."

- Anjelica Harris & Jessica Escue, Assistant District Attorneys

