



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Two years for harassing Suffolk Prosecutor investigating shooting

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A Dorchester man was sentenced to two years in jail for harassing an Assistant Suffolk District Attorney during a 2016 shooting investigation.

Bradley Sylvestre, 23, of Columbia Road, pled guilty to the single indictment under the witness intimidation statute (which also extends to harassing grand jurors, prosecutors and others) at a hearing in Suffolk Superior Court on Friday, Jan. 6, 2017.

The Assistant Suffolk District Attorney investigating a winter 2016 shooting in Dorchester had contacted Sylvestre using her cellular telephone to talk about his testimony and to ask him to come and testify at the Suffolk County Grand Jury investigating the shooting. He refused to talk about the shooting he had witnessed, instead offering a variety of obscenities and then hanging up.

The prosecutor then contacted Boston Police to have him located and served with a grand jury summons. Ninety minutes after the initial call, Sylvestre called back and left an obscene and sexually explicit message on her cellular phone sufficient for a grand jury to indict under the witness intimidation statute.

Because the victim of the threatening behavior was a Suffolk prosecutor, District Attorney Daniel Conley contacted Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey to arrange a Norfolk ADA as a special prosecutor to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest. Morrissey assigned an experienced superior court prosecutor to the case. Because the threatened Suffolk attorney had appeared before the sitting Suffolk Grand Jury, the Norfolk Assistant District Attorney was sworn in as a special Assistant Attorney General and presented the case to the AG's state-wide grand jury. Unlike county prosecutors, Special Assistant Attorneys General have statewide jurisdiction to prosecute cases.

The indictment was returned to Suffolk Superior Court. Defense attorney Jessica Tripp asked Judge Robert Tochka to sentence Sylvestre to 5 years of probation with conditions. Judge Tochka adopted the Commonwealth's recommendation of 2 ½ years in the house of corrections, 2 years to serve with the balance suspended for five years and conditions of release that he stay away from and have no contact with the victim, undergo mental health evaluation and treatment as deemed necessary, and remain drug and alcohol free with random testing.