



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

Jackson County District Attorney's Office

Alyssa Claseman
Deputy District Attorney

815 W 10th Street
Medford, OR 97501
Phone: (541) 774-8181
Fax: (541) 608-2982
clasemae@jacksoncounty.org

TTY: (541) 774-8186
www.jacksoncounty.org

June 26, 2019

MEDIA RELEASE **For immediate release**

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office announced this afternoon that charges against William Travis Newell have been dismissed.

These charges were related to an incident that occurred on February 11, 2018. The defendant was indicted on charges of Attempted Murder and Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Klamath Falls Grand Jury on February 15, 2018. The case was conflicted to the Jackson County District Attorney's Office in October 2018.

The defense brought a Motion to Dismiss in regards to a selective prosecution claim in March 2019, based on the relationship between the victim and law enforcement. This motion was denied by Judge Dan Bunch on June 5, 2019, noting that there was no evidence of a violation of the defendant's Constitutional rights.

After receiving the case, the Jackson County DA's Office requested follow-up to aid in preparation for prosecution of the case, and was assisted by investigators from the Oregon State Police. As a result of this follow-up, new information regarding prior evidence in the case came to light. This information included a 9-1-1 call that purported to be, and was initially understood by law enforcement to be, a confession by the defendant, but was in reality made by a witness on scene who was pretending to be the defendant. Further, statements made by witnesses during the investigation were inconsistent with statements made later during sworn testimony in court proceedings. Crucial communications between witnesses after the event and during the pendency of the case were deleted by those same witnesses.

Although the victim clearly had been assaulted with a knife, was injured, and the weapon used was recovered, the new developments in the case have made it so that the state would be unable to prove this case beyond a reasonable doubt at trial. In his opinion on the Motion to Dismiss, Judge Bunch noted that, "The fact that the state may have significant proof problems does not speak to the Constitutional question presented by defense's motion." The Jackson County District Attorney's Office recognizes that, while a Grand Jury found sufficient evidence to indict the defendant, the burden at trial is proof beyond a reasonable doubt, a very high standard, and for the above reasons it is our belief that this burden would not be met at trial.

MEDIA RELEASE

June 26, 2019

Page 2 of 2

CONTACT INFORMATION

Alyssa Claseman, Deputy District Attorney
(541) 774-8181, ext. 2903

Ruby Herriott, Deputy District Attorney
(541) 774-8181, ext. 2912