



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

Fran McLaughlin
Public Information Officer
Cell: 414-254-9488
Phone: 414-278-5226
fran.mclaughlin@milwcnty.com

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Man Arrested for Sexual Assaults on Lakefront Trail released on Low Bail



Milwaukee, WI – Duane Joseph Fish, age 41, of Milwaukee, currently faces charges on three counts of 4th Degree Sexual Assault and a pending charge of 2nd Degree Sexual Assault under review by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, for assaults against women he encountered along Lincoln Memorial Drive near the lakefront and in the Riverwest neighborhood recently.

If convicted on all counts, Fish faces a total of 42 years in prison/jail, "but don't get your hopes up too high that he will be sentenced to anywhere near that amount of time by the Milwaukee County court system," Sheriff David Clarke warned.

This predator is a menace as evidenced by his criminal history and he's a convicted felon. Among his prior arrests are five for domestic violence, burglary, battery, violation of a restraining order, trespassing, theft and carrying a concealed weapon. Fish's recent spree terrorizing women occurred at a time he knew that many women runners and walkers would be out enjoying an unusually warm weekend.

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To their credit, the Milwaukee Police Department displayed a sense of urgency in identifying this creep and taking him into custody in very short order.

Just as quickly however, the Milwaukee County criminal (in)justice system returned him back to the streets where every woman on the east side of Milwaukee is again at risk of being sexually attacked. Court Commissioner Barry Slagle set bail at a ridiculously low amount of \$500. That breaks down to about \$125 per attack, less than what one could be fined for skateboarding where prohibited.

“This low bail demonstrates insensitivity by the Milwaukee County criminal court system toward victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. It’s an insult,” Clarke said.

“This is what ‘Universal Screening,’ (a new soft-on-crime, socially-engineered experiment orchestrated by Holly Patzer of Wisconsin Community Services and Judge Jeff Kremers that places criminals back on the street before the ink even dries on officers’ reports) has brought us to. They both need to be held accountable and defend this new lenient program that now allows dangerous career criminals to roam the streets claiming even more victims while they await trial.

Before this boondoggle of an experiment, creeps like Fish were assigned higher bail, making it more likely that the community would be protected. Kremers likes to mislead people with his explanation that the only reason for bail is to ensure that a criminal shows up for court. He conveniently leaves out that the severity of the crime and protection of the community are also considerations. Under Universal Jailbreak (Screening) however, these considerations no longer matter. Kremers has been a frequent critic of my harder stance toward violent career criminals.

It is my duty as a protector of the public to notify women in the city of Milwaukee and throughout Milwaukee County that this menace has been returned to the streets. I have to wonder if the prosecutor handling the case was aware of this low bail and if the victims were notified that their attacker has been released.”

ALERT notices containing the suspect’s photo and other pertinent information will be distributed in the east side Milwaukee neighborhoods to notify residents that this threat to women’s safety has been returned to the streets by Patzer, Kremers and Slagle.

The sheriff met recently with Carmen Pitre, a leading advocate for victims of violence against women, to work together and make recommendations to Milwaukee County Criminal justice prosecutors and judges on ways to better protect victims of domestic abuse and other crimes of violence against women.

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