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Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

NEWS RELEASE

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Man Convicted of Assaulting Woman Near Lakefront to be Sentenced Tomorrow



Milwaukee, WI – Duane Joseph Fish, age 41, of Milwaukee, is scheduled to be sentenced tomorrow at 8:15 a.m. in the Safety Building – room 502, Branch 38, for sexual assaults against women he encountered along Lincoln Memorial Drive near the lakefront last fall.

The Milwaukee Police Department quickly identified and arrested him, but the Milwaukee County criminal (in)justice system returned him back to the streets. 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.

Sheriff Clarke put up safety alert posters in the parks Duane Fish was prohibited from frequenting as a condition of the low bail issued by the court. Four women were assaulted, though the charges were reduced by the District Attorney's Office from 2nd degree to 4th degree sexual assault in two cases. A fourth case was not charged.

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A local columnist downplayed the attacks and called the attacker a “bike path fanny-feeler,” though the incident reports show a much greater threat to the women’s safety:

The victim was on her morning run in the park and noticed a man on a bench. When she got to the top of the stairs, he grabbed her from behind by the waist. He pressed his face between her butt cheeks and rubbed her vaginal area. As she struggled, he had his face in her vaginal area, as he forcefully continued grabbing her buttocks extremely hard. She screamed and kicked and was able to get away.

Or another victim, jogging near Riverside High School: A man got off his bike as he neared her, then came up behind her, and squeezed her buttocks, moved his hand between her legs and felt her vagina.

Another victim recounted that she was jogging near Lincoln Memorial Drive, when the suspect grabbed her arms from behind, and pushed her down the steps. She was able to get away, but sustained injuries, including bruising on her abdomen, scraped palms and scars on her knee.

This man was terrorizing women in our county parks. As the sheriff pointed out when he alerted the public of Fish’s release, Fish is a menace as evidenced by his criminal history. He is a convicted felon with arrests for domestic violence, burglary, battery, violation of a restraining order, trespassing, theft and carrying a concealed weapon.

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