



PRESS RELEASE

Florida Man Arrested, Charged in Federal Court for Assaulting MPD Officers during U.S. Capitol Breach

Thursday, March 18, 2021

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of
Columbia

Assailant Attacked Law Enforcement with Plank and Fire Extinguisher in Effort To Halt Certification of Presidential Election

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A Florida man appeared today in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida on charges stemming from his attack on law enforcement officers, as well as other crimes, during the riots at the U.S. Capitol on January 6 that disrupted a Joint Session of the U.S. Congress in the process of affirming Presidential election results.

Robert Scott Palmer, 53, of Largo, Florida, was charged by criminal complaint with one count of assaulting, resisting, opposing, impeding, intimidating, or interfering with any person assisting an officer or employee of the United States in the performance of their official duties while armed with a deadly or dangerous weapon, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 111(a)(1) and (b); one count of obstructing, impeding, or interfering with any law enforcement officer during the commission of a civil disorder which in any way obstructs or delays the conduct or performance of any federally protected function, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 231(a)(3); and one count each of unlawful entry, engaging in disorderly or disruptive conduct, and engaging in an act of physical violence against any person

on restricted building or grounds while armed with a dangerous or deadly weapon, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1752(a)(1), (2), (4), and (b)(1)(A).

Palmer was taken into custody by the FBI yesterday and, at a detention hearing today in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, was released on bond.

The affidavit in support of the criminal complaint against Palmer alleges that publicly available video shows Palmer's assault on U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) and Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers who were assisting the U.S. Capitol Police in securing the Lower West Terrace of the U.S. Capitol on January 6. According to the affidavit, the publicly available footage shows Palmer --wearing a red hat, face mask, and American flag jacket--throwing a wooden plank at the officers, followed by spraying the contents of a fire extinguisher at the officers, and then throwing the fire extinguisher at them. Footage from security cameras inside the Lower West Terrace tunnel provided by the USCP shows that Palmer picked the fire extinguisher up from the ground and threw it at the officers a second time.





This case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and the Counterterrorism Section of the U.S. Department of Justice's National Security Division, with assistance from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida. The case is being investigated by the FBI's Tampa and Washington Field Offices, along with the Metropolitan Police Department and the United States Capitol Police.

A criminal complaint is a formal accusation of criminal conduct for purposes of establishing probable cause, not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

The FBI is looking for individuals who may have incited or promoted violence of any kind. Anyone with digital material or tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or submit images or videos at fbi.gov/wanted/capitol-violence.

Updated March 18, 2021

Component

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PRESS RELEASE**Statement from U.S. Attorney Edward R. Martin, Jr.**

See below statement from U.S. Attorney Edward R. Martin, Jr.

January 24, 2025

PRESS RELEASE**U.S. Attorney's Office Concludes Investigation Into Fatal Police Shooting of Dalaneo Martin**

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia announced today that there is insufficient evidence to pursue federal criminal civil rights or District of Columbia charges against a United...

November 7, 2024

PRESS RELEASE**Child Predator Sentenced to 10 ½ Year Prison Term for Abusing a Female Relative in 2015**

Gary Bellinger, 61, of Maryland, was sentenced today for child sexual abuse for the sexual abuse of a then-15-year-old female relative in 2015.

October 17, 2024



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