



PRESS RELEASE

Illinois Man Pleads Guilty to Felony Charge for Actions During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Friday, September 2, 2022

For Immediate Release

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

Defendant Encouraged and Took Part in Multiple Confrontations

WASHINGTON – An Illinois man pleaded guilty today to a felony charge for his actions during the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. His actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the presidential election.

Matthew Capsel, 28, of Ottawa, Illinois, pleaded guilty in the District of Columbia to interfering with a law enforcement officer during a civil disorder.

According to court documents, on Jan. 6, 2021, between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., Capsel was among rioters illegally at the Lower West Terrace of the Capitol. While there, he recorded videos on social media in which he declared, among other things, “Hold the line, don’t run.” He also joined a mob of rioters on the steps to the inauguration bleachers, where he and others overtook law enforcement officers attempting to secure the area. Later, at about 6:14 p.m., after a curfew had been enacted and the National Guard had established a perimeter on the west side of the

Capitol, Capsel joined another mob. He and others charged at the line of National Guard members, pushing them.

Capsel continued to post about his actions on social media in the days following Jan. 6, writing in one post, “On the 6[th] good men had to do a bad thing ...”

Capsel was arrested on Jan. 26, 2021, in Illinois. He is to be sentenced on Dec. 16, 2022. He faces a statutory maximum of five years in prison, as well as potential financial penalties. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

This case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia and the Department of Justice National Security Division’s Counterterrorism Section. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Illinois.

The case is being investigated by the FBI’s Chicago and Washington Field Offices. Valuable assistance was provided by the Metropolitan Police Department and the U.S. Capitol Police.

In the 19 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 860 individuals have been arrested in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including over 260 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement. The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

Updated September 2, 2022

Attachments

[Capsel - Plea Agreement](#) [PDF, 426 KB]

[Capsel - Statement of Offense](#) [PDF, 490 KB]

Topic

VIOLENT CRIME

Components

[Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#) | [National Security Division \(NSD\)](#) | [USAO - District of Columbia](#) | [USAO - Illinois, Southern](#)

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PRESS RELEASE

Guilty Plea in Theft and Sale of Hundreds of Government-Issued Phones and Computers Slated for Destruction

Nikhil Parekh, 37, of Randallstown, Maryland, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in connection with the theft and sale of hundreds of government-issued smartphones, laptop computers, and other IT...

February 4, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

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Parren Hawkins, 33, of Washington, D.C., was charged today in Superior Court with armed carjacking in connection with an incident, yesterday, in Northeast D.C. The charge was announced by U.S...

February 3, 2025

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Darius Anderson, 23, of Washington, DC, was sentenced today to 32 years of in prison for first-degree murder while armed and related offenses in the June 2022 killing of 30-year...

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**District of Columbia**

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