



PRESS RELEASE

California Man Sentenced to Four Years in Prison For Charges Related to Capitol Breach

Monday, January 16, 2023

For Immediate Release

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

Defendant Posted Photo of Himself Inside Senate Parliamentarian's Office

WASHINGTON - Erik Herrera, 35, of El Cajon, California, was sentenced, on January 13, 2023, to 48 months in prison for felony and misdemeanor charges for his actions during the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol breach. 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.

Herrera was found guilty by a jury in the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia, on August 19, 2022, of the felony offense of obstruction of an official proceeding, and four misdemeanor offenses, including entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds; disorderly and disruptive conduct in a Capitol Building; disorderly conduct in a Capitol Building, and parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol Building. District Court Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell also ordered three years of supervised release, \$2,000 restitution, a fine of \$1,000, and a special assessment of \$170.

According to the government's evidence, Herrera was among rioters who illegally entered the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Among other places, he was in groups that entered the Capitol at the

Senate Fire Door and the Senate Wing Door. He also posted a photograph of himself holding papers inside the Senate Parliamentarian's office. Herrera is a photographer but was not in the Capitol as a credentialed journalist. On Jan. 7, 2021, he admitted on social media that a press patch he was wearing had not been issued by a media organization. He wrote, "I don't have a monopoly on press badges. They're on Amazon for like \$8 ... No special permission to buy."

Herrera was arrested on Aug. 19, 2021, in Los Angeles.

The case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. Valuable assistance was provided by the Department of Justice National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section and the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Southern and Central Districts of California, the District of Arizona, and the Western District of Pennsylvania.

The case was investigated by the FBI's San Diego and Washington Field Offices. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Capitol Police, the Secret Service, Metropolitan Police Department, and the Metro Transit Police Department.

In the 24 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 950 individuals have been arrested in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 284 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 January 16, 2023

Topic

VIOLENT CRIME

Components

[Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#) | [USAO - District of Columbia](#)

Press Release Number: 23-14

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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...

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PRESS RELEASE

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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...

January 31, 2025



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