



PRESS RELEASE

Texas Man Pleads Guilty to Felony Charge For Actions During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

For Immediate Release

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

Defendant Assailant Repeatedly Attacked Police, Used Table and Baton to Aid in Assault

WASHINGTON – A Texas 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 2020 presidential election.

Thomas John Ballard, 36, of Fort Worth, Texas, pleaded guilty in the District of Columbia to one count of assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers using a dangerous weapon, a felony offense. U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Leon scheduled a sentencing hearing for Nov. 1, 2023.

According to court documents, on Jan. 6, 2021, Ballard was among the crowd of protestors at the lower west terrace of the U.S. Capitol building. While among the crowd of protestors at approximately 4:30 p.m., court documents say that Ballard used a police baton to repeatedly strike and hit police officers and pushed a piece of metal scaffolding at the legs of

officers. In addition, court documents state that Ballard threw multiple objects at law enforcement, including a tabletop, a bottle of unknown liquid, a white pole, pieces of a wooden plank, and two other unknown objects.

Ballard was arrested on Aug. 10, 2021, in Fort Worth, Texas. He faces a statutory maximum of 20 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.

The 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 Northern District of Texas.

The case is being investigated by the FBI's Washington Field Office, which identified Ballard as #325 in its seeking information photos, as well as the Metropolitan Police Department, with significant assistance provided by the U.S. Capitol Police and FBI's Dallas Field Office.

In the 30 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,069 individuals have been arrested in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 350 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 July 12, 2023

Topic

VIOLENT CRIME

Components

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

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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

Alleged Armed Carjacker Charged After Arrest

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

PRESS RELEASE

Murder of Shoe Reseller Results in 32 Year Sentence

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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