



PRESS RELEASE

South Carolina Man Sentenced for Assaulting Law Enforcement During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Friday, July 19, 2024

For Immediate Release

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

USADC.Media@usdoj.gov

Defendant Used Riot Shield Against Law Enforcement Protecting the Capitol Building

WASHINGTON — A South Carolina man was sentenced to prison today after he previously pleaded guilty to assaulting law enforcement during the Jan. 6, 2021, breach of the U.S. Capitol. 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.

Tyler Bradley Dykes, 26, of Bluffton, South Carolina, was sentenced to 57 months in prison, 36 months of supervised release, ordered to pay \$22,000 fines and restitution by U.S. District Court Judge Beryl A. Howell.

According to court documents, leading up to Jan. 6, 2021, Dykes received countless Telegram chat messages discussing January 6 and, in particular, contemplated violence at the January 6 events. One group, in particular, discussed the 2020 Presidential election, alleged voter fraud, the Electoral College Certification, and government overthrow by force, quoting Adolf Hitler, among other things.

On the morning of Jan. 6, 2021, Dykes attended former President Trump's rally at the Ellipse and walked from the rally to the United States Capitol Building and grounds. As Dykes approached the Capitol, he saw snow fencing and bicycle rack barricades with "AREA CLOSED" signs but removed the snow fencing and moved the metal bicycle rack barricades, allowing other rioters to more easily enter the restricted area. On the east side of the Capitol, by approximately 2:05 p.m., the violent mob successfully pushed the outnumbered U.S. Capitol Police officers backward from their posts near the bicycle rack barricades. Dykes was one of the people near the front of that mob, which forced officers to continue retreating backward up the East Rotunda steps. After successfully pushing the small number of officers backwards up the steps, Dykes celebrated his victory by turning around and performing the Seig Heil salute towards the rest of the mob.

Within minutes, hundreds of rioters had flooded and overtaken the platform area outside the East Rotunda doors, forcing the small number of officers all the way backward. With their backs against the East Rotunda doors, the officers were attempting to prevent rioters from getting inside the Capitol building through those doors.

By approximately 2:35 p.m., Dykes pushed his way to the front of the mob in front of the doors, where he forcibly, voluntarily, and intentionally grabbed hold of one U.S. Capitol Police Officer's riot shield. Dykes then continued forcibly, voluntarily, and intentionally using his body and hands to pull the shield away from the officer, who was attempting to maintain control of the shield. Eventually, Dykes overcame the officer and succeeded in breaking the officer's shield free from the officer's hands, leaving the officer off balance and vulnerable.

Other members of the mob then deployed pepper spray in the direction of the officer from whom Dykes had stolen the shield and the small number of officers surrounding that officer, who continued attempting to protect the East Rotunda doors. The mob then re-engaged with the line of officers, violently pushing them, throwing things at them, and continuing to pepper spray them, among other things. Dykes, among them, began using the shield to forcibly push other rioters ahead of him, who pushed against the line of officers. He also used the riot shield to obstruct and intimidate the police officers defending the Capitol. Once inside the U.S. Capitol Building, Dykes entered the Capitol's Rotunda, where he continued carrying the stolen police riot shield.

By 2:48 p.m., Dykes joined a group of rioters in the second-floor main hallway north of the Small Senate Rotunda. There, the rioters were confronting a line of Metropolitan Police Department ("MPD") officers that had formed to prevent the angry mob from getting closer to the Senate Floor. The group loudly and repeatedly chanted, "Whose house? Our house!" and then, "You serve us!" As the mob began pushing the line of officers, several rioters were yelling orders to "push!" Dykes first pushed his way from the rear to the front of the group of rioters.

Still using the same riot shield he stole from the U.S. Capitol Police Officer outside the Building, Dykes used the police riot shield to obtain leverage while he and others forcibly, voluntarily, and intentionally pushed the line of MPD officers backward, resisting and opposing

their attempts to stop the group from moving closer to the Senate Chamber. Dykes and other rioters successfully impeded and interfered with the police line: the officers were forced to retreat further down the hallway. As they forced the officers back, the rioters began chanting, “USA, USA, USA!” Dykes also continued holding the shield and using it to obstruct and intimidate the police officers defending that hallway.

Dykes then remained on Capitol grounds until it began to grow dark, and was captured in video footage near the most violent area of the entire day, the inaugural staging area, around 5 pm.

The FBI arrested Dykes on July 17, 2023, in Virginia.

This case was 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 Offices for the Western District of Virginia and the District of South Carolina.

This case was investigated by the FBI’s Columbia and Washington Field Offices. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Virginia, and the Albemarle County Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office in Virginia.

In the 42 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,470 individuals have been charged in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 530 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement, a felony. The investigation remains ongoing.

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

Contact

USADC.Media@usdoj.gov

Updated July 19, 2024

Topic

VIOLENT CRIME

Components

[Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#)[USAO - District of Columbia](#)[USAO - South Carolina](#)[USAO - Virginia, Western](#)

Press Release Number: 24-606

Related Content

PRESS RELEASE

Facebook Marketplace Armed Robberies Case Ends in Guilty Plea

Elijah Porter, 20, of Washington, D.C., pleaded guilty today in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to charges from two armed robberies, committed in 2023, announced U.S. Attorney...

February 7, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Man Who Stabbed His Girlfriend 21 Times Gets 15 Year Prison Term

Devan Green, 30, of Washington DC, was sentenced today to 180 months in prison, for stabbing his girlfriend in their apartment on September 19, 2023, announced U.S. Attorney Edward R...

February 7, 2025

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



District of Columbia

Main Office:
601 D Street, NW
Washington, DC

Email USAO-DC



Telephone: (202) 252-7566